

DC Gazette

VOL X NR 2 25¢ AT NEWSSTANDS

March 1979

SEEKING PEACE & QUIET IN WASHINGTON

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"You show him a picture and he wants to give a dissertation on Thomas Jefferson." — Judge Or-en R. Lewis after listening to J. Carter Brown testify during a court hearing.

FEBRUARY
CANCELLED!
Exciting details
on page two

Turning workers into machines

Account No. Exp. Date.

Dear Editor,
I am compiling a collection of papers on a multi-disciplinary approach to non-accidental injury (NAI — MDA) in the case of Mongolian aardsvarks. Will any readers with information or irrelevant experience please contact me.
Yours sincerely,
David Brandon,
Institute to Study,
MDA — NAI in MA,
Preston, Lancs

—From the British publication, Social Work Today.



Waldrop Fenster
on what to do
until the gentry come

WARNING
DO NOT MOVE THIS PAPER
UNDER PENALTY OF LAW
DC Department of Transportation

NEXT MONTH:
Were Killer Bees
Responsible for
the State of the
Union Address?



WORDS & MEANING

Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed
DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave NW
DC 20009



Blue light blues

WE'RE just full of good news. Last month we reported that DC didn't even make it into the list of the 25 cities with the most violent crime. This month we bring you the glad tidings that according to the census figures from 90 American cities, we rank in the bottom third in property tax burdens. . . . Of course, as the US News & World Report noted, "property taxes are only one part of the burden of government. Often a low levy on homes means a comparatively stiff rate on sales, income and other personal taxes." Which brings us to the bad news. Check your last water and sewer bill. Seems pretty high, doesn't it? That's because the city has been quietly jacking up service fees as an alternative to raising taxes. The beauty of this is that the press doesn't pay much attention when it happens so neither do you. One recent case in point: motorists who get their cars towed away under the city's new parking enforcement policy get charged a towing "fee" of \$50 on top of the fines. The city could collect up to \$14 million a year thanks to the blue-lighted tow-trucks. That the "fee" is actually a revenue raising scheme is indicated by the fact that it is much higher than the amount the city allows commercial towers to charge. . . . In any case, if your car gets towed away, call 727-5000 and hope they remember which lot they put it in. . . . A rose to Dave Clarke for introducing legislation that would reduce the towing fee to \$25 and limit the towing policy to cars causing hazards or impeding the flow of traffic. Says Clarke of the present program: "This is not the way in which we ought to be raising our revenue."

THE JANUARY 15 Newsweek ran an article on "Barry's New Capital," which is nice except for some of the journalistic junk contained therein. When are national writers going to stop peddling stuff like: "[DC] was a one-industry town without much personality beyond its politics and with a largely black and poor population. Now, white middle-class residents are buying into ghetto neighborhoods, and Pennsylvania Avenue is getting such a facelift that developers ballyhoo it as an American Champs-Elysees?" Sad part about this is that one of the writers was Gloria Borger, erstwhile local scribe who should have known better.

If DC used to be dull to journalists it's because they didn't pay any attention to it. Besides, any newsweekly published in New York City—which has given the nation such wonderful personalities as Abe Beame and Ed Koch—is hardly in a position to criticize Potomac blandness. Newsweek seems to think that Barry only gained personality when he became mayor. But then, the magazine is a sibling of the Washington Post and they hew to the same sort of nonsense over there.

BACK TO THE BLUE-EYED MONSTERS again for a minute. We understand that the real reason for the unpleasantness between the cops and Transportation's flying squad (the chief's car impounded, a DOT tow truck ticketed etc.) was the embarrassment of the police

over the numbers of cars one could ticket if you put your mind to it. DOT's new parking program raises uncomfortable questions about police efficiency. . . . WE WERE TELLING a friend about our idea that Marion Barry should name a street after Walter Washington. Turns out he had the street already picked out: 13th Street. "Then," he explained, "we call the street beside the District Building Walter Washington and a Half Street."

THE GAZETTE'S special transition team has come up with yet another idea for the Barry administration. As long as we have a \$40 million surplus, why don't we send \$15 million to Cleveland and some to the Big Apple? After all, Marion says he wants to get involved in international affairs and foreign aid is as good a place to start as any. But one thing: before you give the money away, Marion, double-check the books. . . . John Wilson wants to use the money for tax relief, including a sizable rebate to that minority of DC residents who are homeowners. Who said we're cutting back on social programs? We're just running them for different people.

An appropriate Mall

THERE WAS EARTH DAY, Sun Day and now, on April 27 and thereafter there will be "ACT 79," a fair and conference on the Mall that promises to be the largest gathering of appropriate technology advocates ever held on the East Coast. More than 1000 exhibitors and speakers are expected. Plans are for a self-reliant, environmentally clean and democratically governed model community with houses, streets, shops, farms, industry, health care facilities, schools and even a cemetery, presumably appropriate but non-functional. The Act 79 project includes people from citizens groups, congressional offices, federal, state and local governments and individual activists. They need interns, volunteers and writers and can be found at 1413 K St. NW (8th floor), DC 20005 (393-AT79)

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, the inauguration went pretty well. Many of the coat racks at the inaugural disco fell down, Jim Vance had the parade moving from the Washington Hilton "west on U Street," Nadine Winter swore to "execute the members of the District of Columbia" and a suburban all-white catering firm was used for the mayor's coffee, but mostly it was a nice way to get started. . . . Douglas Feaver, chief Metro flack at the Washington Post, once again dealt light-heartedly with what should be the major question about the subway: how long should it be? In a piece last month, Feaver wrote, "Walter Frankland, the new Metro board member from Arlington, lost no time pursuing his favorite cause. Two minutes after he was sworn in, Frankland asked the Metro staff to tell him how much it would cost to operate a Metro subway system that was only 60 miles long instead of the planned 100 miles." Feaver went on to quote Cleatus Barnett, Metro board member from Montgomery Coun-

February Cancelled

IN A UNILATERAL ACTION that has been widely praised in many quarters, the Gazette last month abolished February. Speaking for the paper, Josiah X. Swampoodle told reporters, "A survey of our readers revealed that February was the most repulsive and redundant month of the year. Using a planning grant from the National Endowment, we have therefore eliminated February from our masthead for 1979."

Under hard questioning from the press, Swampoodle admitted that the move was not entirely altruistic: "The truth is that we always stay ahead of the times in our writing but the date on the cover often seems to lag. By moving directly from January 1979 to March 1979 our flag becomes as timely as our coverage." He denied firmly that subscribers would miss a single issue they have paid for and said that the rumor that a February issue actually had been printed with the entire press run sent to the Shah's family for its reading pleasure was patently false. "There was no February 1979 issue of the Gazette," said Swampoodle, "Nor will there ever be one."

Emphasizing that this was a one-time reprogramming of the calendar, Swampoodle said it was unreasonable to expect the Gazette to eliminate February indefinitely. "If the federal government wants to fund it," he added, "we'll be glad to go along, but we simply do not have the resources to eliminate February 1980 as well."

The change in dating was made possible by the Gazette's new headline machine, one of the most advanced in Dupont Circle. Some technological problems are, however, expected. Swampoodle noted that "we are gearing up for several decades of requests from librarians around the country looking for the February 1979 issue."

ty, who said that Frankland "seems to be asking for the preparation of a bobtailed system. That would be a diversion of staff time." It could also save \$3 billion but Feaver and Barnett are too busy pursuing their favorite cause to tell you that or to take note of the fact that a study such as Frankland requested should have been a part of Metro's recent so-called Alternative Analysis, but wasn't.

Important questions raised

AMONG those at Richard Nixon's recent little reception at the Mayflower was local Land Lord J. Willard Marriott. . . Joe Danzansky is no longer chairman of Giant but he is chairman of the National Bank of Washington . . . After 2000 nights of jazz, Harold's Rogue & Jar has closed its doors. Lost its lease in the 1800 block of N Street. Same old story. . . Thirteen houses on Park Road in Mt. Pleasant have been added to the National Register. . . About a hundred more people died of cancer in DC in 1977 than in 1968. When you take into account the city's population loss that means the cancer deaths have risen 18% in the past decade. . . The job market in DC expanded at about one-tenth the rate of the suburban job market. . . And about half of those new DC jobs were in the government.

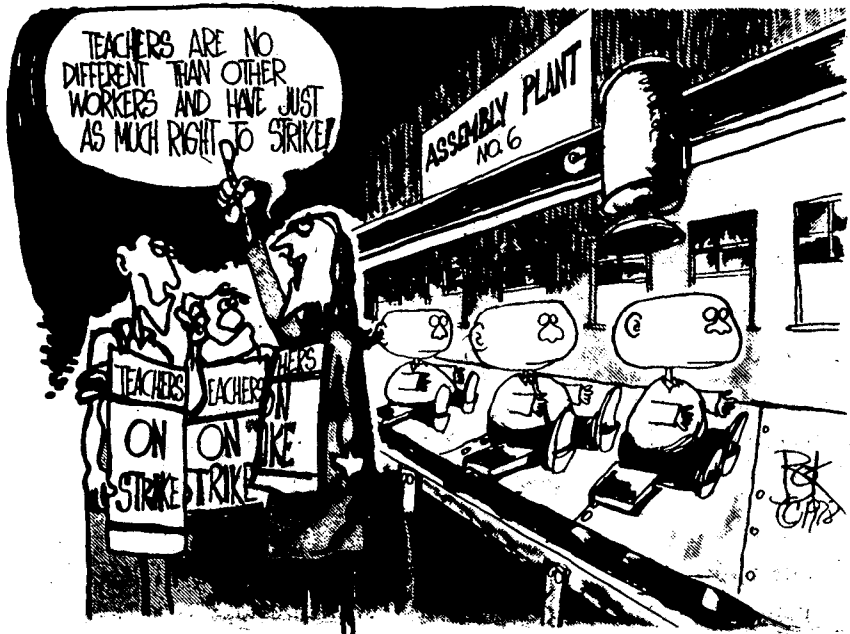
THE LOCAL 1734 Art Collective and Gallery informs us "As the electrostatic copier becomes an increasingly available resource through offices and copy centers, many artists have begun working to define and develop this new visual language. As copy art emerges, many questions are raised. Is xerography a valid art form? Is a xerographic print 'valuable?' Is a reproduction also an original?" Local 1734 doesn't give us any answers but promises an exhibition of xerographic prints beginning March 2 at 1734 Conn. Ave. They're looking for submissions. Call 797-9264. Don't call us. We just print the news; we don't necessarily understand it.

THE CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT Center is looking for student interns and volunteers. The center will provide training for those interested in helping out. Call Anton Wood at 376-2591 or 376-2568. . . Here's a different liquor license story. The Anacostia Neighborhood Commission has passed a resolution supporting the license renewal for Mr. Kelly's on Good Hope Road, praising its "delicious food and

drink, clean premises and respectable entertainment." . . . Up before the Zoning Commission on Feb. 12 at 1 pm is a proposed spot zoning change in the 2000 block of Wyoming Ave. NW that would permit buildings there to go from 60 to 90 feet in height.

THE CITY HOUSING department wants to know what to do with the old Carberry School on Capitol Hill. If you have any ideas, call Sal Cicero at 724-8851. . . 180-day reprieve for the subdivision planned at Corcoran and New Hampshire NW. The Joint Committee on Landmarks and city hall agreed that the proposed building there would be incompatible with the architecture, scale and streetscape of the immediate neighborhood. That gives six months to come up with a better plan. . . Hard times at the Cairo. Tenants there last month were fighting a planned 20% increase in rent. Inland Steel, the landlord, got HUD insured mortgages, now wants to exempt the building from rent control. Rents now run as high as \$320 for a 12 x 12 efficiency.

DOWN AT THE Pennsylvania Avenue Boondoggle Commission, things are going pretty much as could be expected. Turns out the chairman of the board of Fairmont Hotels, chosen to buy the Willard



WORDEN ROBINSON ART POTTERY

Sales • Kilns • Wheels • Glaze Materials
Plus Our Special Clay Body
AC - 703 - 987 - 8625

Folger Apartments

ON - THE - PARK
One bedrooms, efficiencies and studios
411 2nd St. SE 765-2625

DC GAZETTE

The Gazette is published monthly except during the summer when it is published bi-monthly. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads, which should be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month.

The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, Zodiac News Service, HerSay News Service and Community Press Features.

The Gazette welcomes contributions. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Payment upon publication.

The Gazette is available by mail for \$5 a year. First class \$2 a year extra. Singles copies are \$50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

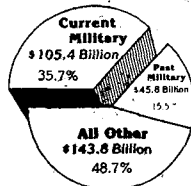
EDITOR: Sam Smith
CARTOONIST: John Wiebenson
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER: Leonard Cohen
NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: Waldrop Fenster
ROVING CORRESPONDENT: Josiah X. Swampoodle

DC GAZETTE
1739 CONNECTICUT AVE. NW (#2)
DUPONT CIRCLE, DC 20009
232-5544



World Peace Tax Fund

People morally opposed to paying taxes for war will be forced to pay a share of the more than \$120 billion military budget this year. With a World Peace Tax Fund law, these taxes could promote better ways of living instead of better ways of killing.

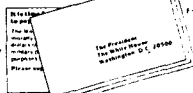


Urge Congress to Act!

A World Peace Tax Fund law would:

- Give people morally opposed to war a legal alternative to paying taxes for the military
- Build a fund of several billion dollars annually to develop alternatives to military defense

Send personal letters and pre-printed cards to your Representative, your Senators and the President.



For pre-printed cards and further information, contact:
National Council for a
World Peace Tax Fund
2111 Florida Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 483-3751

AD RATES

\$2 per column inch; \$22.50 per quarter page; \$45 per half page; \$90 per page. Non-profit groups may purchase ads at one-half these rates if ad is camera-ready and paid in advance. Half-tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready. Classified rate: 10¢ per word paid in advance. Send ads to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009



THE NEWS BEFORE IT HAPPENS

FOR MORE THAN 12 years the Gazette has been bringing you the news before it happens: ideas and issues that are going to shape the future but which the other media pass by. If you want to stay a step ahead, you can get a year's trial subscription for only two dollars. Use the form below.

DC GAZETTE
1739 Conn Ave NW, DC 20009

Please send me a year's trial subscription to the Gazette. I enclose two bucks.

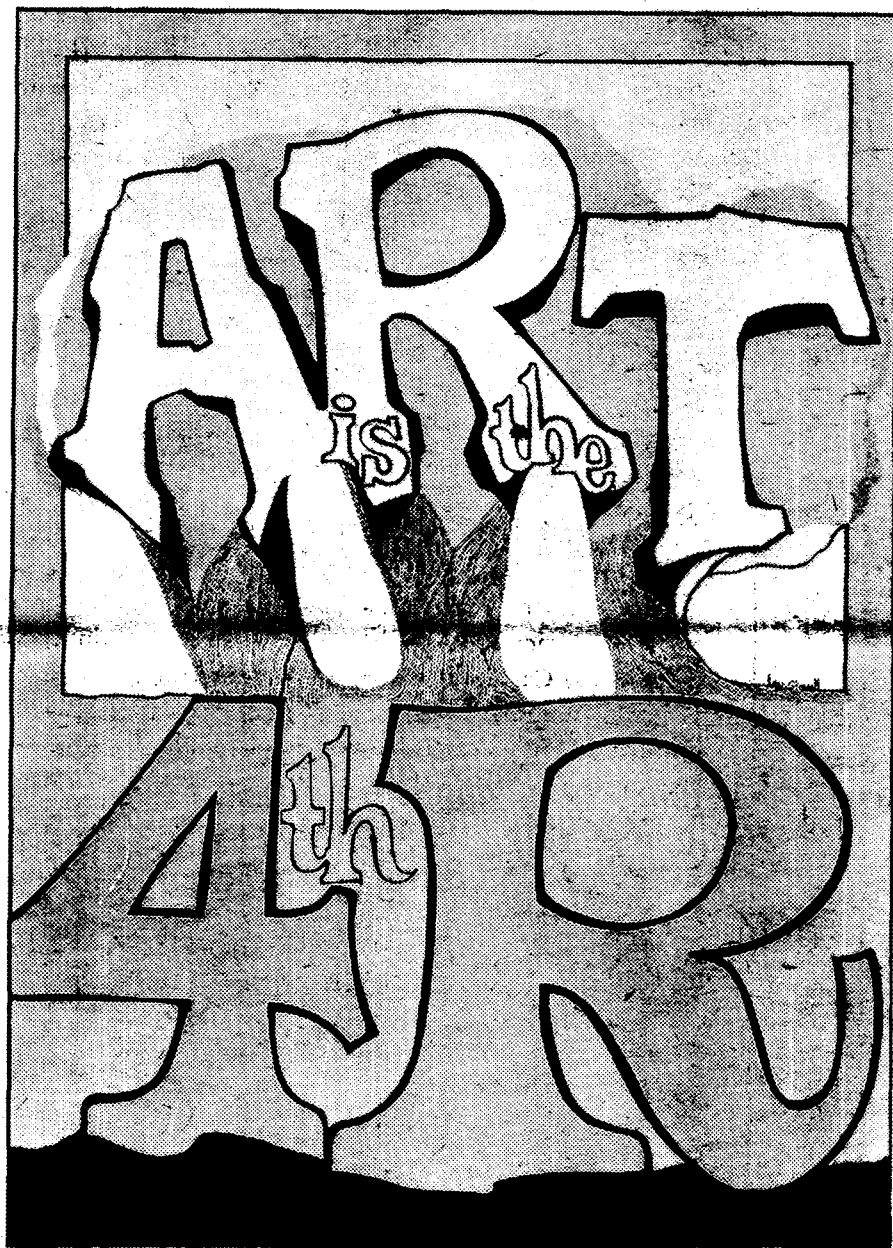
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

by the avenue wheeler-dealers, is the very same gentleman who was one of the partners in the outfit that sold the Willard to the PaAve Commission in the first place. To the Post's credit, given its unabashed enthusiasm for the PaAve plan, the story was uncovered by its Jerry Knight. It was, of course, run on the business page, so that ordinary taxpayers wouldn't get too upset. What's crazy about all this is that Ben H. Swig, the Fairmont chief, has, in effect, bought the Willard back from himself. Well, crazy until you realize that Swig's old partnership made a handsome sum on the first sale and will get the place back at a write-down. Notes Knight, "The developers will not be expected to pay the full price paid by PADC for the hotel, said Peter Meszoly, assistant director and legal counsel to the PADC." Knight also offers an explanation for the peculiar deal: "there was money to be made selling the Willard to the government and there is money to be made taking over the Willard from the government and reopening it, but there's no profit in keeping the hotel and restoring it as a private venture"... While folks like Swig, Marriott and Quadrangle Inc. have learned how to the Pennsylvania

Avenue Polka, at least one old-line Washingtonian landowning family isn't doing so well. We learn this from Betty Beale, society columnist for the Washington Star, who has taken a late blooming interest in urban displacement now that it is affecting some of her own people. Betty wrote recently that "the heirs of the Caleb C. Willard Trust property from 1306 to 1322 F Street were recently informed that the land that's been in their family since 1847 has now been condemned and they will get a 'ridiculously low price' for it, 'lower even than the market appraisal in 1972.'" Beale went on: "to say that the Walter Willard Boyds were stunned is to put it mildly. They, their three children, and Dr. Boyd's late sister's four children, feel outraged by the treatment they have received. . . . After the PADC announced in its own prospectus for the redevelopment of the area. . . that the developers were to negotiate with the landowners for land-lease," says Ruth Boyd, "we entered into correspondence with Quadrangle and Marriott, (the developers selected by PADC) to arrange a long-term lease. PADC then changed its position and said the land would be condemned and then leased to Quadrangle and Marriott, thus depriving



Copyright 1978 DC Gazette

A Silkscreen Print by Lou Stovall

This original silkscreen print by noted artist Lou Stovall is available exclusively from the DC Gazette. Printed in five colors, it will be appreciated by artists, collectors, teachers, and children interested in art. An unmounted edition costs \$15 plus 75¢ DC sales tax and \$1.50 postage and handling (\$17.25 total). The mounted edition costs \$20 plus tax and must be picked up. Send check or money order to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009.

If you wish to view the print, please call 232-5544.

THE JEWISH STUDY CENTER Coffee House is back in business at Temple Micah, 600 M SW. For info call Norman Shore at 667-7829 or 232-0106.

THE LESBIAN HEALTH and Counseling Center, 1606 17th NW, holds a clinic every Wednesday from 7 to 10 pm. Crisis counseling and referral service. Info: 332-5295.

EIGHT AREA GROUPS has joined to form the Metro Washington Council on National Priorities to help deal with planned cuts in domestic federal programs. Groups include the Citywide Housing Coalition, the Metropolitan Washington Planning & Housing Association and the Washington Peace Center. For info call 234-2000.

CLASSIFIED

CLASSIFIED ADS: 10 cents a word. Payment must be enclosed with ad. Deadline: Third Tuesday of the month. Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn Ave. NW, DC 20009.

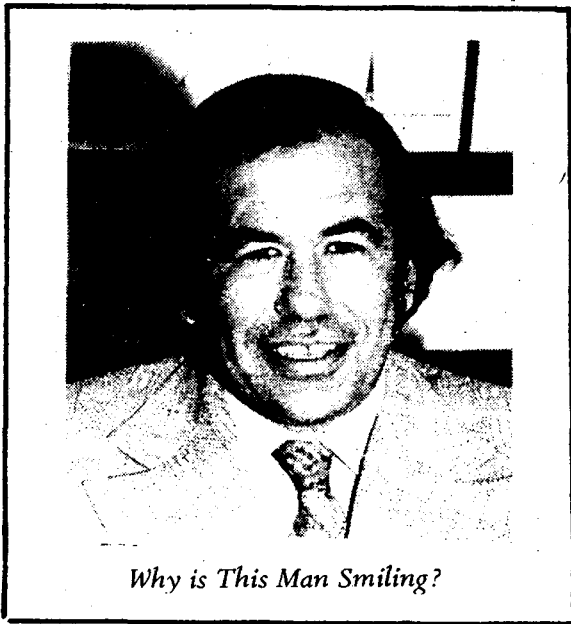
COMMUNITY SILKSCREENERS, P STREET PAPERWORKS. We custom design and print posters, cards and t-shirts. We also hand-screen fine art editions for artists. Beginning and advanced silkscreen classes offered. 1734 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008. 797-9264. ap

GETTING MARRIED IN DC? Creative, non-religious, or do-it-yourself ceremonies. Rev. Paul McKnight, 667-0507. ap

PEOPLE PAY FOR PEACE

- a new campaign to protest our taxes going for war
- symbolic tax refusal
- public actions

D.C. AREA CAMPAIGN:
People Pay for Peace
P.O. Box 19336
Washington, DC 20036
Or phone Bill at
578-0625 or 483-3751



Why is This Man Smiling?

the families involved of a large percentage of their livelihood." What Ms. Boyd obviously doesn't understand is that developers these days need "incentives" and her family has been picked to provide one. Now if they had just stayed in the hotel business. . . .

THE DOWNTOWN-NEAR NE-SHAW Neighborhood Commission has moved its offices to 715 G NW (room 204), DC 20001. (638-3455). . . . Did Jesse Jackson mean what he said the Inaugural Disco when he told the throngs: "Marion is not only a mayor of a city; Marion is a mayor of a state. We must get statehood for Washington, DC." Barry was all smiles but didn't say anything. . . . And what's this about Jackson not only being a preacher in a great city but wanting to be a senator from another one? . . . Another report from the closet: One of Barry's first acts was to file major revisions to the city's clean air plan with the federal EPA. One of the key elements was "completion of *at least 60 miles* of the Metro system." (Emphasis ours.) Something less than full commitment to completion of Metro, egads! Incipient treason in high places. Or at least one can hope. . . . Other elements of the plan include charging commercial parking rates for government workers, putting into effect auto exhaust inspection controls and urging people to use mass transit.

Softening on Washingtonian?

SINCE WE HAVE been giving our friends at the Washingtonian a hard time of late, we'd like to give them a deserved plug. Dick Dabney's story in the January issue of taxi driver et al Robert McArthur was one of the finest local stories we've read in many a moon. Don't miss it. . . . Also worth reading the same issue is Howard Mean's piece on the DC schools. . . . And now the Foggy Bottom Disappearing Act brought to you by Oliver Carr, Conrad Cafritz, Meyer Siegel, Howar Properties and the gang down at the DeeCee DeeBee who made it all possible: Over the past two years some five hundred apartments in FB have been converted into apartment hotel rooms, another 300 have been destroyed to make way for new hotels, 324 have been swallowed up by George Washington University for dormitories, and more than a thousand have received the kiss of condo conversion. More to come. . . . Carolyn and Jack Reeder have looked into the lives of the people who got kicked out to make way for the Shenandoah National Park back in the 1930s. The result is a book, "Shenandoah Heritage: The Story of the People Before the Park." The book is an excursion into a way of life that exists today only in a few hollows of the Appalachians. You can get a copy for \$4 (including postage) from the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1718 N St NW, DC 20036.

IF YOU LIVE UP 16th Street and would like to get involved in education issues, you might try the Ward Four Council on Education which meets every fourth Thursday at the People's Congregational Church, 4704 13th Street NW at 7:30 pm. Phyllis Young (723-7724) is president. . . . Ellen Switkes must have the best hearing in town. In her nifty newsletter on the arts, In-the-Works, she passes on from time to time things overheard in DC, like, "I think, therefore I drink;" "Anything goes, but nothing happens;" "Anything worth having is preselected;" and "Grow up. Sell out." You can get ITW for five bucks from PO Box 50132, DC 20004. . . . Planned Parenthood has opened a men's center on Monday evenings 5:30-8:00 at its headquarters, 1108 16th NW. There will be sexuality education, clinical services, VD

treatment, counseling and rap sessions. You can just drop in and all services are confidential. On opening night they showed a film, served refreshments and handed out a gold-colored condom to all who wished one. Info: 347-8500.

Action at North Anna

THE ANTI-NUKE battle comes close to home June 3. Safe energy groups plan a civil disobedience action at VEPCO's North Anna plant on that date, preceded by a legal rally. Also in the works is a "naval blockade" of the steam generator units which VEPCO is shipping by barge from Florida to the Surry plant near Norfolk. The generators are designed to replace ones found defective. Local contact for all this is the Potomac Alliance, PO Box 9306, DC 20005 (462-1782). The North Anna plant was built close to an earthquake fault, VEPCO has been fined for "making material false statements" about the fault by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and also for other deficiencies at the plant. Says Potomac Alliance's Leigh Hauter, "Despite years of legal opposition to the plant by local citizens concerned for their health and safety, North Anna continues to threaten Virginia's population with radiation risks, cancer and genetic damage on a wide scale. This failure of the regulatory process to protect us means that Virginia Sunshine Alliance groups must put our own bodies in the way to prevent further operation of this obviously unsafe plant."

THE FEDERAL government has told local jurisdictions to expect cutbacks in sewer treatment money. In the past decade, more than \$1 billion in federal money has flowed in to treat the outflow but now, says the Potomac Basin Reporter, "EPA is saying, in effect, that most of the major water cleanup problems have been solved — and that the federal government is no longer going to give grants for growth." This means problems for local politicians and developers whose expansionist policies have been subsidized by the feds. . . . Neighborhood therapy seems to have worked on the American Psychiatric Association, which has dropped its plans to purchase Ellen's Irish Pub (and the rest of the building) to turn it into a high rise headquarters. Developer Jeffrey Cohen has taken over the building, plans to renovate it for offices. Fate of the pub remains uncertain. . . . Says David Sellin of the Caravel Building on Connecticut Avenue: "It isn't architecture, just construction; it isn't modern, just recent." . . . That wisdom from Don't Tear It Down, which will be holding its preservation auction on February 25 at the Sheraton Park. Cocktails and light supper will start at 5 pm followed by a live auction. Items to be put on the block include 4 finials from the iron fence that was in front of the Monroe House, stone artifacts from the old Riggs Bank Building, an original Archhorse cartoon by John Wiebenson, and a staircase from a Massachusetts Avenue mansion. . . . Greater Southeast Community Hospital is offering brochures on how to cut health care costs and a proper immunization schedule for children. Call 574-6646 for them. . . . One of the reasons people like to use the school board as a stepping stone to something higher is that once they're on it they can't believe there isn't something higher. While educational levels lag, funds founder and CBC creeps along, we are treated to such important debates as the recent one over whether students should be encouraged to send medical supplies, books and magazines to black children in southern Africa. Neither side distinguished themselves on this one, with both whites on the board opposing the resolution on legalistic

Please turn to page 14



Leonard Cohen Photo

Peace and Quiet and Washington

ERIC A. GREEN

WHEN one has grown old and his work is done, it is his right in stillness to make friends with death. He does not need man. He knows them, he has seen enough of them. What he needs is quiet.

Herman Hesse tacked this note on his front door to ward off uninvited visitors.

I'm not yet an old man. I'm hardly ready to retire like Herman Hesse to my retreat far from the well-traveled road. Friends still provide companionship.

But is it asking too much, as Herman Hesse wailed in odes to solitude, for peace and quiet? Since moving to Washington I have been searching for a quiet place to live, where for a few hours a day I can forget the confusion and cacophony of modern day life.

My search for quiet has forced me into at least 25 moves, which probably sets a city record. I've spent vigils in boarding houses, roadway motels, with friends (who reverted to enemies after I overstayed my welcome) and in various sleazy, fly-by-night rat-traps down on the Potomac waterfront. That's not something I brag about. I'm not proud to be a human mobile home.

Now a skeptic might ask, "Why don't you hide behind a bunker or disappear in an abandoned coal shaft or run to the Black Hills of the Dakotas if you're so dead set upon silence? Someone less sympathetic might recommend that I just kill myself.

But that ultimate solution wouldn't solve much. Dead quiet would drive me up the wall. Unlike Herman Hesse I'm not ready to retreat to splendid isolation and pontificate about the ills of modern day man. But I still need time to run from it all.

When I first moved to Washington, my relatives insisted that I stay with them for a week while I looked for an apartment. I lasted 24 hours with them.

My problem with the relatives started and ended with Rebecca, the family's "darling" infant daughter. She began to shriek as soon as I dropped my suitcase. Rebecca went into a tirade when I looked at her. She yelled when I breathed. Often I get stuck beside impossible brats when I travel on buses or trains. Now I was supposed to endure this charming creature for a week.

"Isn't she cute?" Rebecca's mother chit-chatted, as the tot let out a shriek that registered 8.5 on the Richter scale.

"She's a doll," I said with a clenched smile.

"Everyone loves her," the father chimed in. "Here, you hold her. I can tell you like her."

The baby was offered to me like a sacrifice, or perhaps it was the other way around. I held her like I hold a hissing cat that has its claws extended. Rebecca wasn't thrilled with me. She dug a foot into my stomach and spit on my glasses.

The parents cheered. "Oh, isn't she marvelous," they congratulated each other. The baby hollered into the night. By dawn I was headed uptown on the S-7 express bus. I landed in a flimsy motel in Beltsville.

Other noise problems came at a sleazy \$90/month boarding house on Dupont Circle. Nothing was wrong with the place except for crashing your head on the ceiling or brushing your teeth as ants circled in the sink or sharing a cold shower with 900 savages.

The decibel level in this zoo rivaled the din made from jet bombers taking off at an air base. The loudest disco and soul to be played west of Studio 54 managed to fracture my ear-drums while giving me an incurable case of shell-shock. I wondered whether the whole world played nothing but the heavy metal wails of Led Zeppelin's immortal song, "Stairway to Heaven." They should have titled it, "Curving into Hell." Hearing that song played repeatedly has given me a nightmare outranking my worst dreams about natural disasters and atomic wars.

I thought I had found that elusive peace after I checked into a high-class apartment complex in Rosslyn. The place came with a mailroom, telephone answering service, sauna and an elegant rooftop restaurant that offered a breath-taking view of the city.

I never ran into problems with the other tenants of this Rosslyn address. No one blasted disco music or held all-night parties.

Many tenants looked like bankers and stockbrokers. But no one had warned me that the complex was the local hangout for a group of Hells Angels. They seemed to take a sick delight in racing their motorcycles past my window all night. In the wee morning hours, these packs of road hogs congregated in the back parking lot, chugging down Thunderbird wine and Southern Comfort and bellowing obscenities at each other and the whole world. It sounded like standing beside a dozen whirling chain saws as they gunned their sleek machines madly around the block.

I seemed to be the only tenant bothered by these leather-jacketed greasers. It's almost as if the management had conspired with them to drive me crazy. Despite my numerous complaints, nothing was done to stop the commotion. Maybe I was becoming paranoid but one night I could swear I saw the 70-year-old resident manager herself barreling hog-wild around on a bike.

The all-time worst experience with noise came when a former friend jived me into sharing his apartment across the street from the Washington National Cathedral.

"Come on Babes," he said. "Only \$80 a month rent. Great access to everywhere. Your own room with free utilities. Babes, it's cheap. Next door they pay double for practically the same thing. It's one in a million, a steal. Babes, you'll never get something like this again."

"Babes" was correct in that respect. The apartment no longer exists. A wrecking ball thankfully demolished it.

Numerous problems came with the rent. The so-called shower sprinkled yellow crud for water. I woke up with snow on my face in the winter and bird droppings in the summer because of cracks in the ceiling. The refrigerator needed constant defrosting. Sometimes we were forced to turn on the gas stove to heat the joint. When the pilot light burned out, the place turned into a gas chamber.

But I curse the apartment because it was impossible to find a moment's peace. My roommate loved to play slow, tantalizing Arabic records. He forced his friends to listen to them. He played them for me when they left. He danced to the music in every waking hour and played it as a tranquilizer for sleep. It gave me permanent insomnia.

I still look upon the National Cathedral as an arch-enemy. Its church bells clanged all day. Thousands of screaming children poured into classes. Mobs of tourists cursed each other fighting for a few sacred parking spaces by the church. I always thought a church provides refuge from the daily insanity of life. Not so with the National Cathedral. The place seemed more like Times Square.

I've discovered in my odysseys around town that I'm not the only one affected by noise. In fact, there are worse cases than mine.

I was renting a modern garden apartment in Silver Spring. One morning I awoke in a rage because the resident above me was blasting his stereo. His music had been disturbing me for months. The situation was hopeless. It was again time to move.

As I telephoned my apartment locator service, I jumped from a loud crash hitting against my living room floor. It sounded like a bomb. That was followed by a long, anguished howl. A few moments after it stopped, someone furiously pounded on my door. What was going on?

"Hello," I said, greeting a disheveled looking man who had a crazed expression on his face. He looked like he hadn't slept for weeks. His twitching made me think he was suffering a nervous breakdown.

"Are you all right?" I said.

"No. I can't take it anymore."

The man began sobbing uncontrollably. I tried to calm him.

"You were making a phone call now, weren't you, weren't you doing that?" the man cried.

"Yes, but..."

"See. I knew it. Your phone calls drive me crazy. I hear you dialing every number."

"That's impossible. I use a touch tone."

"So that's what it is. That's even worse. It's too much for me to bear."

"I'm sorry."

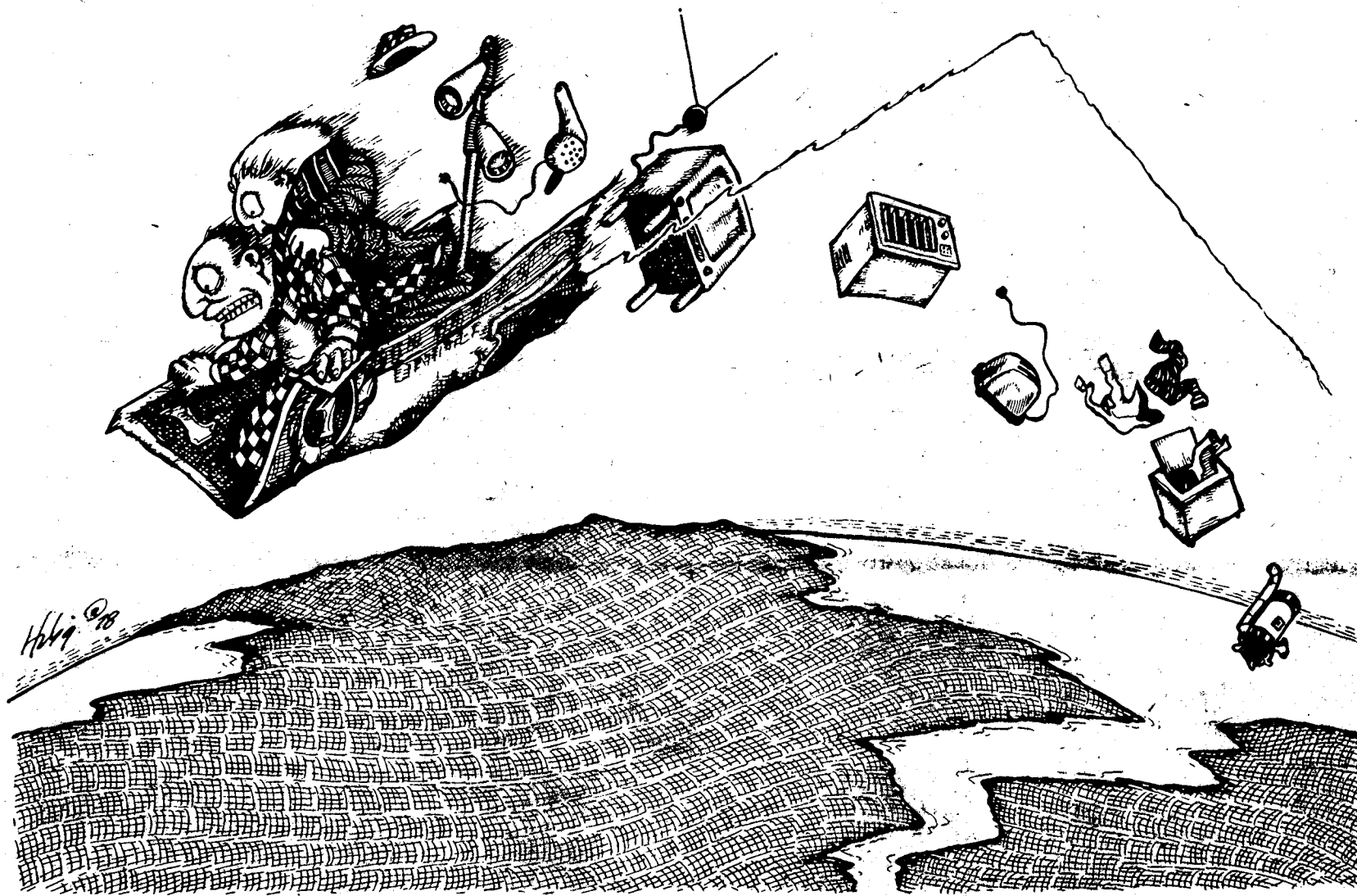
"Sorry won't do. I'm moving out. It's your fault."

He left, gasping as if he had just been sentenced to the electric chair.

I sympathize with that fellow. I know how he feels. But things are now even worse for both of us. Just the other day I moved into an apartment on Capitol Hill. Today I found that my long-suffering friend from Silver Spring has rented the apartment below me. . . Ah, excuse me. That must be him slamming on my door.

Apple Pie

An American Report



DR. MICHAEL JACOBSON, director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, reports that the nutritional content of Alpo dog food is greater than that in a fast-food chain hamburger.

THE DIRECTOR of a UFO research organizations claims he has obtained sworn statements from several retired Air Force colonels that at least two flying saucers have crashed on the earth and have been recovered. William Spaulding, a director of Ground Saucer Watch, told the New York Times that one crash was in Mexico in 1948 and the other was near Kingman Arizona, in 1953. Spaulding says the retired colonels claimed they got glimpses of dead aliens recovered in the crash. They were described as being four feet tall with silverish complexions and wearing silver outfits.

A STUDY BY Stephen Webb of the University of Victoria and John Chollette of the University of Utah claims that country living may be more stressful than city life. The researchers discovered that the number of prescriptions filled for stress-relieving drugs — mostly tranquilizers — was greater in rural than in urban areas. Rural residents consumed nearly twice as many stress-related drugs as did their urban counterparts.

SANTO BARIO choked on a peanut butter sandwich while in a San Antonio jail Dec. 16. According to High Times, however, it wasn't the peanut butter that got him but the strychnine with which it was laced. Bario was a former agent for the Federal Drug Administration, reportedly about to blow the whistle on some of the agency's activities and had just completed a five hour interview with High Times

when the incident occurred. According to High Times reporter Craig Copetas, Bario claimed to have found a Mexican heroin connection, linking the smuggling of heroin to the highest levels of the Mexican government. He also was ready to document instances of torture carried out against prisoners in Mexico with the help of US drug enforcement officials. At last report Bario remained in a coma.

THE WORLD HEALTH Organization claims that the work absenteeism rate for cigarette smokers is 20 percent higher than for non-smokers.

LONG-TIME YIPPIE activist Aaron Kay is organizing a "Disco Sucks Movement." He says disco has a "lobotomizing effect on Americans." Studio 54 owner Steve Rubel has already received a pie in his face from movement guerillas.

POT NOW RANKS as one of the top twenty cash crops in this country according to Atlantic Monthly. About half the size of the tobacco business.

CONNECTICUT'S FORTY-YEAR-OLD ban on round toilet seats has finally been repealed. The ordinance was originally passed because it was believed you got venereal disease from round toilet seats.

A RUTGERS UNIVERSITY economist urges housewives to begin cleaning each other's homes for pay in order to get the benefits of being employed. Dr. Jessie Hartline says there's nothing illegal about such a set-up and that each woman, by exchanging paychecks, would

THE FORTY YEAR OLD HIPPIE



By TED RICHARDS

then be entitled to worker's compensation, social security, health and medical protection and even a pension plan like that available to other self-employed persons.

A STUDY BY THE UNIVERSITY of Copenhagen has found that since pornography bans were lifted in Denmark in 1967, child molestation has dropped 56%, indecent exposure 58% and voyeurism 80%. Rape, however, is on a slight increase in Denmark. The survey also found that in recent years, the demand for pornography in Denmark has subsided, and that it is now mainly an export item.

MEDICAL RESEARCHERS at Harvard report they have discovered that brief exposure to certain pesticides can trigger significant changes in human brain wave activity that persists for at least a year. The persons tested were farm workers exposed on several occasions to organo-phosphate pesticides. Subsequent tests on monkeys produced what Professor Frank Duffy calls "frightening" changes recorded on an electro-encephalogram—even using very low levels of the poisons. Workers exposed to pesticides have previously complained about such long-term symptoms as excessive dreaming, loss of memory, a decline in sex drive, irritability and an inability to concentrate. This is the first study, however, which has been able to measure physical changes apparently triggered by the pesticides.

ACCORDING TO EXECUTIVE FITNESS Newsletter, if both your parents were fat, there's a 40% chance that you will be, too. If they weren't, your chances of obesity are only 8%.

A SURVEY BY the National Gay Task Force has found that 122 of the 500 largest corporations in the country say they do not discriminate against homosexuals in employment practices. Among these companies are ATT, GM, the Bank of America and Exxon. The Gay Task Force is crediting anti-gay crusaders like Anita Bryant with improving the climate in business for gays and lesbians. The heated debate over homosexual rights has caused corporations to re-evaluate their own policies, and many have since moved to end discrimination within their organization.

A NEW STUDY predicts that the cost of radioactive waste disposal at atomic power plants is likely to add ten percent to consumer's utility bills, and may add even more than 20 percent. The study was prepared by MHB Associates, a Palo Alto firm that has been started by three former GE engineers who recently resigned from GE to protest safety procedures in the nuclear industry. The report estimates that by 1995 it will cost at least \$40 billion to get rid of toxic wastes from nuclear plants.

JOGGERS WHO RUN at least six miles a week possess unusually high levels of high density lipoproteins, which are known to help prevent

heart attacks. This is according to Dr. G. Harley Hartung at the Baylor College of Medicine who found the evidences in tests of runners. Previous medical studies have found these substances in the blood of long-distance runners but they had not been detected before in the bloodstream of regular joggers.

AS REAL ESTATE values around the country have skyrocketed in recent years, property taxes have zoomed out of sight, right? Wrong. An analysis by Allen D. Manvel in a recent issue of Tax Notes shows that while property taxes nationwide did increase by 46% between 1972 and 1977, individual incomes went up much faster—by sixty percent. The result is that the ratio of property taxes to personal income dropped from \$50.02 per \$1000 to \$45.63 per \$1000. But the states where the tax revolt was strongest, like California, must have experienced increased property tax burdens, right? Wrong again. Eight of the 50 states did have increases, but California wasn't one of them. In fact, the birthplace of Proposition 13 had a 9% drop in the ratio of property taxes to personal income, just about the national average. (From People & Taxes, PO Box 14198, DC 20044)

NEWLY RELEASED government documents reveal that in 1964, after Jean-Paul Sartre had joined the Who Killed Kennedy Committee, J. Edgar Hoover fired off a memo to his top aides directing them to "find out who Sartre is."

A NEW OUTFIT called Chicken Little Associates has been formed in Washington to raise American consciousness about the 85-ton Skylab station that will crash back to earth later this year. According to NASA at least 25 tons of debris are expected to survive the fiery re-entry, including two large parts that will weigh about a ton apiece. NASA doesn't know where the thing will hit but could smatter over an area several thousand square miles in size. Chicken Little Associates says radio and TV stations should provide Skylab location reports along with their daily weather forecasts so that when the craft returns people will be able to take cover. You can reach CLA by calling Alex Fraser at 202-244-3001 or 202-387-0560.

WPCR in Plymouth, New Hampshire, is using a propeller atop a twelve-foot tower to produce enough electrical energy to power the station for three or four hours a day. . . . And WBNO, in Bryan, Ohio, plans to start using solar panels this spring to provide about 15,000 watts of power.

THE NUMBER of children aged five to nine is expected to decline by five percent in the next eight years, while the number of 10 to 14 year olds is expected to drop by fourteen percent. These are more than merely interesting statistics to Walt Disney Productions, which plans to face the 'baby bust' with a variety of strategems. According to the Wall Street Journal, Disney is building a multi-million dollar amusement park for adults in Orlando, Florida, will be coming out with its first PG-rated film and is planning an adult parody of "Snow White." One Disney executive admitted, "Some of the old guard here are very upset."

A TEACHER IN Rockledge, Fla., has asked the school board to ban the Random House College Dictionary from the classroom because it contains 23 dirty words. The words have not been identified.

ACTION NOTES

WOMENS TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Women in Madison, Wisconsin have formed a free transportation service to provide mobility and safety for women who cannot afford a car or taxi fare. The service operates every night between seven and two and is heavily depended upon by the elderly.

FANS FOLD: The Washington office of Ralph Nader's sports fans association has folded after attracting only 1400 members instead of the expected 5000. A few volunteers are trying to carry on in a small office in San Francisco.

BATTERED WOMEN: ISSUES OF PUBLIC POLICY: 706-page report on the issue by the US Civil Rights Commission. Contains listing of women's organizations around the country dealing with the problem. Write the commission at 1121 Vermont Ave. NW, DC. (202-254-6697)

TOPICS

Waldrop Fenster

LET'S START THIS MONTH WITH a quick test:

Question: Can you identify the source of the following quote: "Rather than getting upset about middle-income people breaking up the ghetto we should help accelerate the effort and help low-income people out of the ghetto?"

Answers: [] A. Report of an urban renewal agency c. 1959

[] B. Article in "Commentary" c. 1969

[] C. Article by the Washington Post planning critic c. 1979

If you picked A or B, read on. If you immediately recognized the words of Wolf Von Eckardt in a recent issue of the Post, you may skip to the next story. You clearly understand that nothing has changed.

Admittedly, the style is different. In the old days you got rid of the poor by fiat. One of the first stories I covered in Washington was the saga of an old white woman who didn't want to leave the Southwest urban renewal area, though by that time it had been reduced to several hundred acres of Astrodesert. She took on the Redevelopment Land Agency, the rest of city hall and the planning mafia who told her she'd really be much happier somewhere else. She simply didn't believe anyone had the right to define what was good for her. They moved her anyway.

Eventually, though, that sort of thing gave urban renewal a bad name. So the autocrats of the drafting table got smart. They started letting other people do the evictions. They discovered that the right sort of subsidy for the right sort of people, a little change in the law here and there and a rezoning or two could accomplish the same purpose at much less political cost. Let the developers and the landowners take the flak.

It worked. You just don't see people marching on city planning agencies the way they used to. The struggle is with the speculators who are gobbling up our cities. We forget who set the table for them.

But the game hasn't changed much. Only the rules. And the language. *Revitalization* has replaced *renewal*, *displacement* has replaced *eviction* and the people who are moving in are called *the gentry*.

The plan is still what it has always been, — even during the long, lean years of riots, "the urban crisis" and "the declining city." For all the moaning and wailing of those times, land values remained markedly more stable than external conditions would have suggested. The smart money might abandon what was on the land, but not the land itself. One day, they knew, it would come back. You can't burn down land.

That day has come and with it a resurgence of the old justifications for kicking people out of the city. The basic assumption has been, and is, that what cities need is a better class of citizens. Of course, you can't come right out and say that, so you write things the way Irving Kristol does: "Any policy which anchors poor people in a declining city — whether it be by generous welfare payments, subsidized housing or subsidized unemployment — is bound to be cruelly counterproductive."

The same principle, however, does not apply to the middle and upper classes apparently and the Kristols and Von Eckardts rarely speak of the massive subsidies provided to encourage these groups to return to the cities. In truth, urban subsidy has replaced urban renewal as the prime weapon being used against the present residents of the city — both poor and middle class — and the amounts are staggering. It would not be an exaggeration to say that in a city like Washington the figure would be in the billions. A few examples:

- Washington's subway system is by routing and fare structure designed primarily to serve the needs of a white middle-class ridership. Although much of this ridership is suburban, the system is also specifically aimed at encouraging new middle and upper-class development in the city and to meet the transportation needs of those who live there. Cost so far: \$3 billion.

- Rezoning favorable to developers interested in the up market have proliferated in recent years. These are of uncertain but enormous value.

- Downtown urban renewal has been carried out in such a manner as to evict smaller entrepreneurs serving the existing city and to alter the downtown market from one catering to a less affluent black majority population to one selling to a more affluent white population.

- Every major plan over the past two decades has reduced the amount of low and moderate income housing, and housing for families, in order to provide, at public expense, housing for the childless and affluent.

- Even in the case of vacant land, as in the several hundred acres of DC's Ft. Lincoln, public subsidy has been largely provided for the higher end of the housing market.

- The federal government, as was pointed out in Thomas Brom's article on these pages (November 1978) has been deeply involved in the subsidized eviction of present residents of the city. Wrote Brom: "Current federal programs, ranging from low-interest rehabilitation loans to community development block grants, are often used by local government to increase the tax base by attracting middle and upper-income development. With few exceptions there are no limits on the income of those who receive the federal loans and no limits on the rents or resale prices they can charge after rehabilitation. Nor are there limits on

private speculation in areas targeted for subsidies, nor any attempt to limit the disruptive effect of major commercial development on older residential neighborhoods. As a result of federal intervention, market values of inner city real estate increase dramatically, driving up assessments, taxes and rents and driving poor people out." Although Brom was writing specifically about the role of HUD, the same principle has also operated in the handling of federal transportation and sewer monies.

But the myth of the oversubsidized poor is not the only one peddled by the gentrifiers. Another favored argument is that if you get the poor to the suburbs they will find jobs and better housing. There are several problems with this. One is that the phrase "suburbs" is not geographically equivalent to the phrase "city." Suburbs are much larger. Comparisons of employment opportunity that fail to notice this are badly misleading. Not only is there the question of mobility (and in DC, for example, the 1970 census found over 40% of the families here without cars) but the fact is that housing opportunity may be considerably more restricted than employment opportunity. Emigration from DC has tended to cluster in the eastern suburbs, where housing prices are still reasonable. A fair assessment of "employment opportunity" for these new suburbanites should discount all those jobs out of commuting range, not to mention all those unreceptive to blacks. The picture then changes dramatically.

Of course, the Von Eckardts cover themselves by saying that we should subsidize the poor in the suburbs. This is a noble cause which has been matched in its reiteration as a goal only by its failure to occur. It is not enough to justify the eviction of the urban poor to say you favor housing for them in suburbs. At the very least, actual provision of this housing should precede urban displacement and not, as is now the case, the other way around. The Von Eckardt principle seems to be, "Let them rent theories."

Besides, much of the alleged attractiveness of the suburbs (which supports the argument that it is all right to kick people out of the city) is a sham. Why is there such an interest in occupying "declining cities?" In part, because people are beginning to recognize that cities have certain decided advantages over the suburbs: a better housing stock, better transportation, convenience, accessible culture and entertainment, and a capital investment in services and public facilities that the juried rigged suburbs of the post-war era have yet to match. If the poor are so lucky to be forced out into the suburbs, why aren't the rich trying to beat them to it rather than going the other way? The truth may be that it is the suburbs, and not the cities, that are declining and we want the poor out there before they find out.

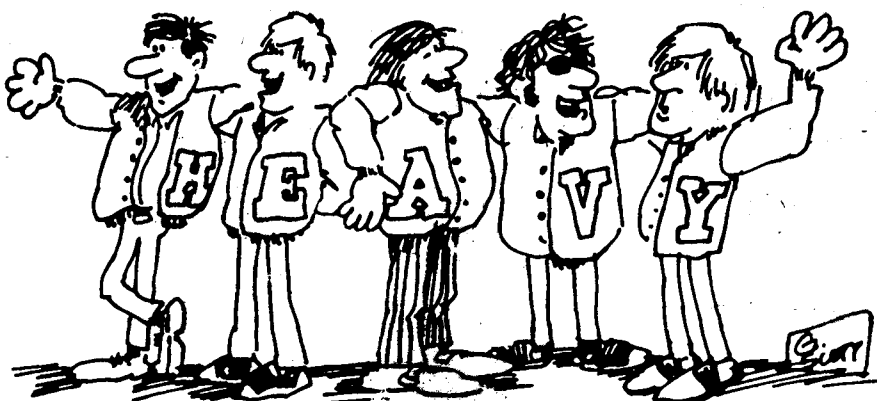
But the clincher in this whole business is that the gentrifiers, by producing elaborate justifications of the handling of the urban poor, are obscuring the terribly important fact that urban removal programs do not just affect the poor. The existing middle class of the city is deeply affected as well. In almost any neighborhood, speculative increases in housing prices means that newcomers will almost certainly be richer than those currently living there. It means higher property taxes, steeper home maintenance costs, and more expensive neighborhood shops. As prices rise, a community which once catered to young families will be replaced by one filled with childless and older people who can afford the cost. A neighborhood of middling executives and junior lawyers will find itself welcoming senior partners and then, perhaps, two lawyer families. No neighborhood will be able to replace itself, because gentrification means not only the displacement of the poor but the replacement of all living there. The process will continue until the city becomes populated primarily with the hyper-affluent who will control the best land, the best jobs, the best services and the best infrastructure. Everyone else — and not just the poor — will be moved out.

Four years ago, Carl Bergman, then associate editor of the Gazette, described what was happening well in an article, "A Housing Policy for Those Who Live Here." It's worth re-reading a bit of it:

It's not that it's so bad to lure these folks back in. What is bad is the price those here pay to do it: the destruction of what low and moderate income housing is left in the city, coupled with rising property taxes.

The policy also reneges on an old political deal. The deal involved what was known as "trickle-down" housing. What the middle class abandoned for suburbia became the property of those who remained in the city. City people were to be given a little more breathing room. Plain but substantial leftovers were redistributed.

But one man's Plain Jane row dwelling became a realtor's Victorian Town House. And the deal was off. The housing was too good to be occupied by those who could not afford to keep it good. So the solution was not to help those who managed to trickle into trickle-down housing, but to throw them back out again.



Adding to the confused result was the fact that those who did come back to the city were just as often victims as the people they displaced. Almost entirely white, generally with incomes in the \$20,000 category, they had the resources to buy in and renovate. That, however, was not the end. The realtor's knew that where these folks came from were a lot more, often with higher incomes.

And so the new arrivals began to be pressured out by the same rising market that brought them into the neighborhood in the first place. The ones who benefited from all this were the real estate people who did such things as buy and sell homes to each other to drive prices (and commissions) up.

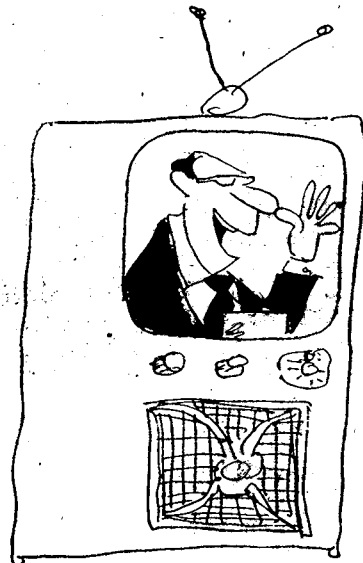
The real estate people will explain all of this to you in terms of "economics" or an updated version of social Darwinism — survival of the financially fittest. In reality it is almost a total result of federal mortgage and highway policies coupled with local planning dominated by commercial and real estate interests.

Understanding the broad effects of speculation and gentrification helps to explain why the racial composition of a city like DC hasn't changed as much as the frenzied activity of the housing market would suggest. In fact, many of the affected are middle class whites.

This is not new. There was, for example, a large but unnoticed removal of the existing white population on Capitol Hill when restoration started there. Significantly, gentrification does not typically begin in a city's poorest neighborhoods at all. The prime targets are marginal communities with the potential of true urban stability. Here, the first neighborhood was Georgetown — far from being the slum center of the city. From there, the process moved to places like Capitol Hill and Adams Morgan, not renovating the worst of the city, but skimming the cream of its best housing stock. It was the very neighborhoods that stood the best chance of making it on their own, but which were undervalued, that got torn apart by the gentrifiers.

Still the beat goes on. The New York Times Magazine ran a piece in January called "Rediscovering the City: A New Elite Sparks an Urban Renaissance." that gurgled almost incoherently about gentrification. Only on the last page in the closing paragraphs did author Blake Fleetwood get around to discussing what effect the "renaissance" would have on the present residents of New York.

DR. ARMAND KAROW of the Medical College of Georgia says that the techniques for collecting, freezing and storing sperm have become so effective and simple that it is not technically possible for a woman to artificially inseminate herself in the privacy of her own home. Adds Karow: "As easy as artificial insemination is to perform, we can even imagine a normal couple selecting semen from a panel of famous people and doing home insemination."



heew



"And that's the opinion of the management of this station."

He admitted that "high rents and renovation are driving the poor and the working class out of their homes and neighborhoods" and that there were signs of "increased racial unrest and urban tension."

"Indeed," wrote Fleetwood, many observers fear that "uprooted 'urban no mads' will post a major social problem in the coming decade."

And how does Fleetwood suggest we deal with such problems. His one sentence resolution is a priceless example of the work of the journalistic gentry:

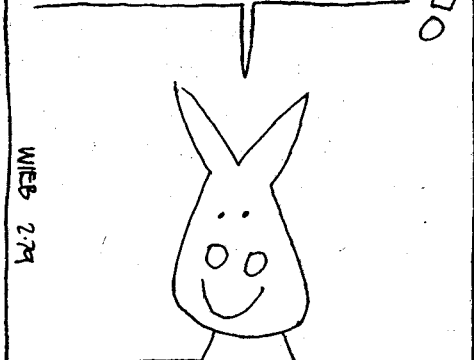
"The Department of Housing and Urban Development has recently awarded more than 200 grants totalling \$3 million for studies of the situation."

While we breathlessly await the content of these studies, I leave you with Wolf's assurance that gentrification "is the best thing that has happened to American cities since ditches were turned into sewers" and Fleetwood's pronouncement that "the survival and recovery of New York City depend on an educated, integrated urban elite." It may make it difficult for you to pay your plumber or your property taxes or even to find a house in which to live, but that's a small price for being part of such a great era in urban history.

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AGAIN...

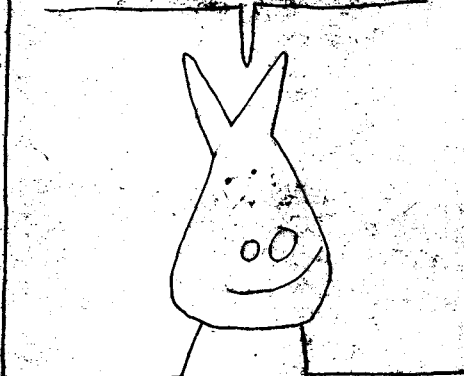


YES! SEVERAL VALUABLE BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN SAVED FOR THE FUTURE!



HOW COME SIDEWALKS AT NEW BUILDINGS ARE TO BE 50 FEET WIDER—LIKE AT THE FBI? ISN'T THIS GOING TO MAKE F STREET STORES THAT MUCH FURTHER FROM TOURISTS ON THE MALL? ISN'T THAT A LOT OF LAND TO THROW AWAY? ISN'T IT SORT OF UGLY TO HAVE OLD BUILDINGS PUSHED 50 FEET OUT & NEW ONES PUSHED 50 FEET IN?

RECENT AVENUE PLANS ARE FAIRLY GOOD—THEY NO LONGER CALL FOR TOTAL DEMOLITION...



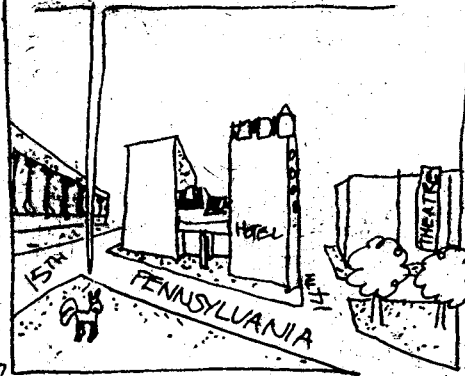
BIG DEAL, SMARTALEC HORSE! WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE AVENUE?



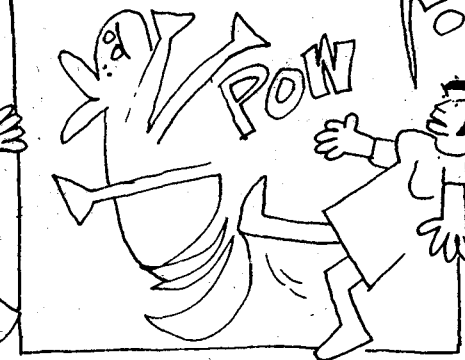
HOW COME WE DON'T JUST FILL THE FBI'S SIDEWALK WITH SHOPS & CAFES?



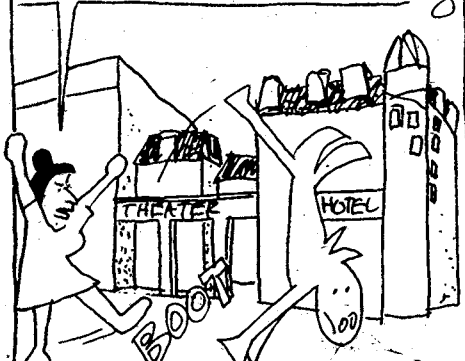
HOW THE WILLARD HOTEL AND NATIONAL THEATER ARE TO BE KEPT...



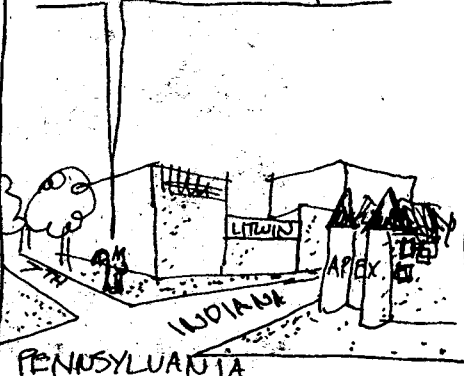
HOW COME OTHER FINE OLD BUILDINGS—LIKE THOSE AT 12TH STREET—WILL BE JUNKED?



HOW COME THE WINNING WILLARD PLAN IS ONE OF THOSE WITHOUT A THEATER?



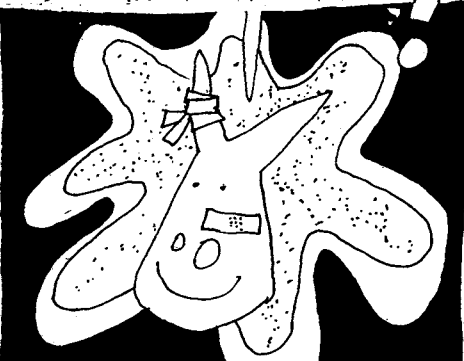
THE APEX AND SOME STORES ON INDIANA AVENUE ARE BEING KEPT, TOO...



HOW COME 1ST FLOOR SHOPS AREN'T REQUIRED FOR THE CANADIAN CHANCERY HERE?



TO SUM UP—HOW COME AVENUE PLANS AREN'T MORE THAN GOOD—WHY AREN'T THEY GREAT?



4.8 MINUTES FOR THE BATHROOM

THINKING BACK ON IT, the incident still makes Jerry Cooper boil. "I was stacking cases of canned goods on a pallet while the supervisor watched," he says. "She had a stop watch, timing me for the computer production system. Finally I said, 'How do you stand your job?' She said, 'I don't think about it. It's just my job.'"

"Then I asked her if she could do what I did in the warehouse. She said, 'No, I don't think so. But I wasn't cut out for manual labor.'"

Cooper's anger was less directed against the supervisor than against the computer production system, a revolutionary process which represents a quantum leap in the old time-motion labor studies of years gone by. The new system, thanks to modern computer technology, is able to turn manual laborers into finely-tuned, highly efficient human machines whose every muscle movement is timed and regulated down to the split second.

But there's one hitch: The human machines are rebelling.

Last April, the Safeway retail chain brought in a flood of roving supervisors armed with stop watches to its huge Richmond, California, distribution center and announced it was beginning a new Work Rate System. Jerry Cooper and the other warehouse workers in Teamster Local 315 suddenly encountered production controls they thought were limited to the assembly lines. Before they knew it, every second of their working day was tightly scheduled — from the time it took them to perform a certain task to the number of minutes and seconds required to go to the bathroom.

By all accounts, it has been a rough transition — including suspensions, firings, and finally a walk-out of 3500 workers from eight union locals. Safeway dramatically increased productivity at the warehouse, but focused attention on its methods in the process.

Time and motion studies are nothing new to management or industrial workers. Frederick Winslow Taylor developed his theories of "Scientific Management" in the 1890s, drawing from his experiences as a gang boss at the Midvale Steel Works.

Taylor popularized time study of the labor process, using a stop watch to measure the period of each step in production.

An associate of Taylor's, Frank Gilbreth, added the concept of motion study shortly afterward. Gilbreth classified all the basic motions of the body, regardless of the particular work being done. He analyzed these movements by using photographs of the workplace with laborers' paths superimposed, stroboscopic pictures showing changed work positions over time, and motion pictures. The elementary movements of the body were called therbligs (Gilbreth spelled backwards), and became the basis for time and motion study.

But the advent of the computer produced an enormous jump in the sophistication of such research. "The old systems depended on the judgement of the guy with a stop watch," says James O'Brien, executive director of the Methods-Time Measurement Association in Fairlawn, NJ. "We've developed a paper stop watch consisting of non-judgemental time values for basic human body motions."

The body is subdivided into mechanical parts, each moving in specific ways and measured in time motion units (or TMUs). One hundred thousand TMUs equals one hour.

Walk, bend, reach, grasp — each motion used in production appears as a quantity of TMUs. Even eye focus and eye travel are measured, tabulated and distributed to corporate clients as a computer data base.

O'Brien says that many of his clients are from aerospace, banking and heavy industry. Distribution — and warehousing — is a late-comer to the time and motion style of scientific management.

But profit margins have been notoriously narrow in the food retailing business. In the late 1960s volume growth leveled off for the first time, reflecting a slowing of population growth and changing work patterns causing more families to eat away from home.

In 1973 and 1974, food prices shot up an unprecedented 15% a year and set off a supermarket price war that still rages. Safeway emerged as the national leader, partially through an aggressive campaign to cut costs and boost productivity. The company set about computerizing every aspect of its operation, from warehouses to electronic checkouts.

"We sent some of our industrial engineers to MTM Association classes in 1976," says Safeway spokesman William Gross. "Then we spent six months studying our warehouse operation, interviewing and retraining our employees."

The company also incorporated warehouse data from 1942-43 Defense Department efficiency studies to produce its own standard data base.

Finally, Safeway fed its computer information on the size, weight, block and cube of all store items, an entire blueprint of each warehouse, the location of every slot, rack and station, the temperature of the air (affecting worker fatigue), and even the coefficient of friction when boxes are slid across each other.

"The company tried to figure in everything you could imagine," says Ron Teninty of Teamster Local 315. "Roving supervisors followed us everywhere with stop watches. At first, they said to take as long as we wanted for each job. But then they set averages, keying on the faster workers."

"When the system came in last April, each job order had a certain time limit stamped at the bottom. You had maybe 27 minutes to stack 110 items on a pallet and get it to a certain truck bay. You had 30 minutes to eat, ten minutes for break and 4.8 minutes to go to the men's room. A day's work is 420 to 430 minutes. Everything comes out of that. You have to meet the time standard on each order, or out you go."

The new system had lots of bugs in it. "Certain orders were literally impossible to do in the time they gave," Teninty says, "while others you could do with ten minutes to spare for a smoke."

"It was crazy," adds Cooper. "When there was a slow-down on the floor, you'd actually bargain over minutes with the supervisor. They'd say, 'I'll give you four minutes off,' and I'd argue for six minutes."

But most of the workers couldn't keep up. "You just couldn't make it," an 11-year veteran of the warehouse says. "Maybe an ex-linebacker could handle it, but not day in and day out. At the end of the shift loading maybe 40,000 pounds, the sweat was just dripping off me."

"At least 90% of the workers were disciplined under the system," Teninty says. "At one point Safeway had to stagger the suspensions (ten-day layoffs) they handed out because they were running short of workers on the floor."

Both union and management agree on one central point: the new system resulted in a massive speed-up at the Richmond warehouse.

"We had to subpoena Safeway to get their production records, but we got them," says Teninty. "We compared the old 'cases per hour' productivity system with the new system, measuring the output of over 300 order selectors on the job from 1975 to 1978. We found a 50 percent to one hundred percent increase in what had been acceptable before Safeway put in the MTM system."

"We don't like the word 'speed-up,'" Safeway's Gross says. "We prefer to call the productivity increase a 'recovery.' There had been a concerted slowdown by some people at the Richmond warehouse over the past few years. Our productivity had actually declined in that operation from 200 cases per hour to barely over 100 cases per hour."

Local 315 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters filed a grievance procedure shortly after the MTM system began in 1977. Final briefs were filed before an arbitrator in July with the union charging speed-up and changes in the work rules in violation of the 1976 contract. But before the arbitration was decided, the members of Local 315 had had enough. With 12 terminations and 65-70 suspensions for the month, the local struck Safeway.

Once Local 315 walked out, the charges and countercharges started flying. The union claimed the average age of workers in a DC Safeway warehouse dropped from 37 to 23 after the computer system was installed. Safeway's Gross says the average age of the workforce actually increased.

The union claims that in the past year, more than 80 workers have been forced onto compensation because of work-related accidents attributable to the speed-up. Gross says the accident rate overall declined 9 percent since MTM.

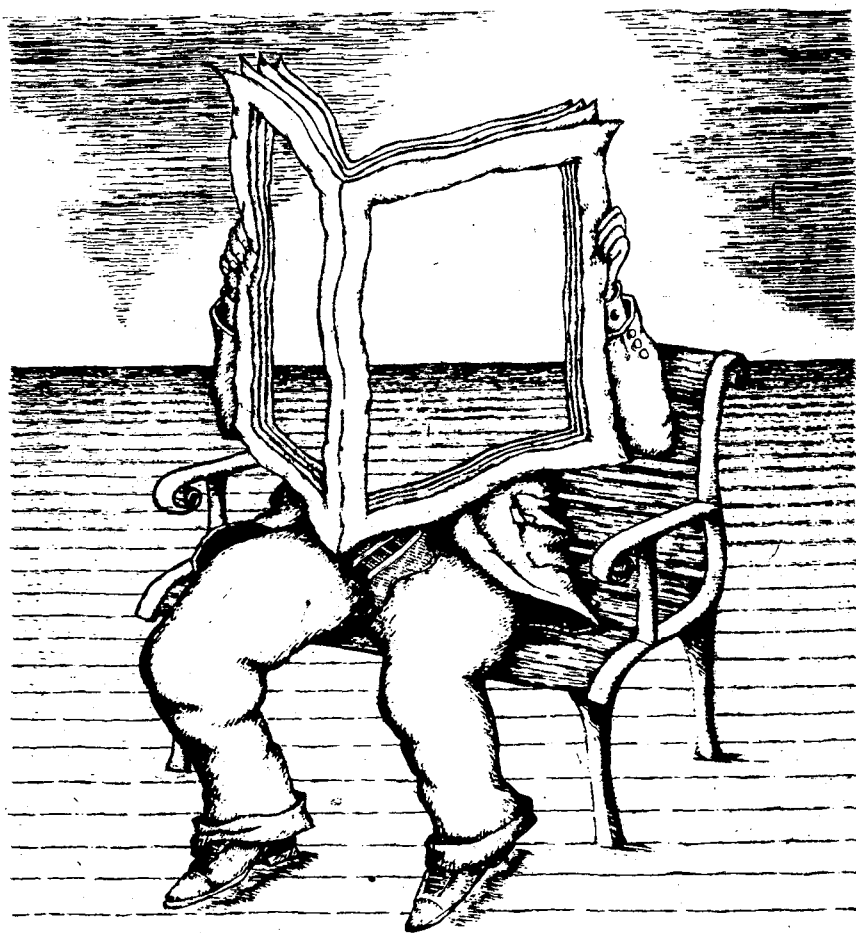
The teamsters outside the struck Richmond plant carried signs that read, "MTM — Man Turned Machine." But the company and MTM Associates are convinced the only problem is teaching workers the benefits of the new system.

"MTM is an exact measurement for determining a fair day's work for a fair day's pay," insists James O'Brien of the association.

"The MTM system sets an average, tightening up the loose standards and loosening up the tight standards. Sure, it disorients workers at first. But if the system is expertly applied, it is fair for the normal worker."

Then he adds, "You know, people can get accustomed to doing work that I would drop dead on."

(C) 1978 PNS



Flotsam & Jetsam

Words and Meaning

I LEARNED the other day that I had survived more than two decades as a writer without ever fully understanding what a predicate was. My ten-year-old explained it to me. I was glad he understood it, but I wondered whether he still would when he was forty-one and how many times he would get to use the information between now and then. I am wondering again for now, a few days later, I have forgotten his explanation.

I don't fault his teachers for instructing him on such matters, because it comes as part of a package that also includes the foundation of good writing, which is to write, write and write again. They are always writing something at that school — poems, interviews, ads, news articles, book reports, lists — and that's good. If they happen to pick up a bit of arcane knowledge about the structure of language along the way, there is no harm. It's like the baseball fan who remembers who played first base with the Red Sox in 1946.

I know there are people who feel the decline of the American language began when we no longer could remember what a predicate was. Esquire gives space regularly to a column predicated on predicates and such — a pleasantly stuffy series by John Simon who weighs his words with all the care of a deli owner measuring pastrami for a sandwich. People like Simon and Edwin Newman are fun to have around; it's nice to know that there is still a chance to make a living maintaining standards, but the truth is that they are not going to save the language or reverse our semantic senility. They are museum curators inviting us into quaint restored rooms of our linguistic heritage, but, like it or not, we are never going to live that way again.

I don't deny there's a problem. There are people who right now are simplifying textbooks to compensate for the growing sub-literacy of college students. This town is awash in words that people have written, many of them unnecessary or indecipherable. Congress recently considered legislation affecting what it called "unitary hograising structures" when it could have said "piggins." A research firm in North Carolina, asked to study how schools could combat illiteracy, told the state board of education, "The conceptual framework for this evaluation posits a set of determinants of implementation which explains variations in the level of implementation of the comprehensive project." DC's school superintendent speaks fervently of the need for "self-actualization" and thinks he's saying something. There is fear in some quarters that television is mangling the abilities of even the formerly literate. That despicable creature of computer technology, the word processing machine, is rapidly expanding our potential to tell each other things we don't need to know and no one has invented a companion reading machine to absorb its effluvia. Editors at once respectable newspapers have demeaned themselves by becoming mere button pushers in front of consoles that spew out billious green sentences. And an official at the Justice Department last month was reviewing the Patty Hearst case. The file was three feet thick. Measure three feet on your favorite bookshelf. That's what the official at the Justice Department could have been reading if he weren't digesting all the words allegedly pertinent to the Patty Hearst case. There is a problem. We are about to lose our language to a junta of machines, morons and media mashers.

I would submit, however, that the solution does not lie in drawing up the wagons around purity. Much as John Simon would prefer that we not use "hopefully" the way we do, it is the sort of argument that quickly convinces modern mumblers that preservers of language are elitist fools, not worth the bother.

Rather, I think, we should accept the fact that language is culture and art and that there is no reason for it to be more static than any other aspect of culture and art. The question is not whether we say it the same way as our grandparents, but whether we understand each other and whether we say things that offer enlightenment, entertainment or emotion. The problem is not that language is changing but that the changes reflect other alterations in our society that are less than desirable. The problem is not that our grandparents would not understand us but that we don't understand each other.

Bureaucratese is the most prominent example. It is constantly berated, yet it survives because we fail to recognize that we're dealing with politics and not just words. Bureaucratese is bad not only because it sounds bad, but because it accurately articulates what many bureaucrats are about: obfuscation, indecision, carefully padded prevarication. Bureaucrats don't talk like that because they were poorly taught; their language honestly reflects their mission. That's what we should be fighting. The language will follow.

Next to bureaucrats (and to avoid tedium I shall lump Ph.Ds, sociologists, consultants and people writing grant proposals as their fellow-travellers) the worst damage is done by the media. The media comes second only because its evil is occasionally mitigated by contributions to idiomatic expression. In an era when we all sorely need something in common, we should not begrudge being able to share at least "We do it all for you." No bureaucrat ever added anything useful to the language, but advertising not only regularly replenishes our supply of clichés, it provides an ever-changing source of humor.

The press used to contribute to language as well, but you hardly see a good bit of Timese any more and typically the new words the press does bring us are ones devoured unquestioningly from bureaucrats trying to deceive it. In recent weeks, for example, the press has, without a whimper, accepted the notion that "mandatory conservation" is a perfectly acceptable synonym for "rationing." There was a day, sadly far gone, when reporters would have ridiculed any bureaucrat who tried to get away with that. Perhaps reporters no longer notice because they too are joining the bureaucracy.

The press and advertising are part of what is known as the "communications" industry. And here lies the rub. One writer has observed that communications does not necessarily have anything to do with words at all. After all, animals communicate. One of things that separates us from them is our supposed ability with language. But the media is willing to settle for communications.

How fitting. Because the basic task is not to get us to think, which requires language, but to get us to feel. Feel like having a Micholob. Feel like we've understood the world from the evening news. Feel like using the right shampoo will bring us happiness. Feel like we're saying something when we're actually engaged in a sensory transmission as primitive as a robin's chirp.

The current sensory obsession of America is phenomenal. Layouts become more important than the articles they announce. Packages become more important than the contents. Backgrounds become foregrounds, feelings become ideologies, and what you sense overwhelms what you see and learn. I think at times that our cat should be allowed to vote. She arches her back when a dog wanders into the yard; she purrs and paddles her paws when she is content; she feels and she communicates and don't say nothing. She is the modern American hero. Warren Beatty with fur.

Except for one thing. For all our sensory glut — mood drugs, mood music, mood therapy, mood theology, mood government — we still have this curious ability to talk and write. So while some feelies mercifully boogie themselves away wordlessly in the disco dens, others think it unfeeling not to use this ability. Thus they write and talk. And about what? Their feelings, of course.

The feelies are all around us. They go to psychiatrists or group therapy to share their feelings and then rush out to tell others what they told their psychiatrist or therapy group. They come up to you at a party and move instantaneously from their name to a detailed report on their emotional EKG. They tell you that you are having trouble expressing yourself or that you're not being honest with them, though you may only be waiting for a break in their monologue. They write books about how love, success and salvation all depend upon communications yet they rarely provide any information or idea for which language is truly necessary. Mostly they are just dealing in primal communications.

It makes me think I should get out of this writing business. If expressing oneself in words is really that easy, why am I revising this page for the third time? Why do I have to say, "I don't know" when everyone else seems to? Maybe words are just harder for a writer. Someone else can say, "I'm really getting into soup these days" and expect it to be accepted as a statement of culinary fulfillment of the highest order. I can't help but see them doing the backstroke through a bowl of Campbell's Cream of Tomato. If I had been given a recipe or anecdote the assurance of involvement would have been more convincing, even unnecessary, but the style in some quarters to day is for language to be used for confession and profession as though that sufficed without further elaboration. As it turns out I have a friend who is editing a book about soup and she has described some of the effort that goes into such a project so if you are going to tell me that you are really into soup, you'd better be prepared to back it up. It means something else to me, perhaps, than to you.

Words can mean many things, and once off the lip or on the page they gain a life of their own, with meanings that may not coincide with the author's intent. So you try to be careful, to think about what you say or write, what it means to you and what it might mean to someone else and then you end up like Jack London who said, "It is the hardest thing in the world to put feeling, and deep feelings, into words. From the standpoint of expression, it is easier to write a 'Das Kapital' in four volumes than a simple lyric of as many stanzas"

I find I have a bad reputation. In conversation I fumble around a lot, starting sentences and then dropping them in the middle, like I would on a typewriter, mentally crossing them out with silence. It amuses and frustrates my friends.

I think I know what the trouble is. I have discovered that when I am speaking formally, to a group or on the air, I am much more fluent than in personal conversation. The reason is, simply, that I don't generally say anything on these occasions that I haven't tested in the research & development section of my mind. I mainly repeat myself. In other words, I don't really think.

But in an informal situation, I try to think and talk at the same time and my tongue sputters, my mind keeps back-spacing and well-intentioned sentences turn truant. This is especially true when I try to say how I feel about something. According to the contemporary mythology this means I am either repressing my feelings or, worse, don't have any. This presumption confounds me. If pushed or tired, I'll just go along and spit out an appropriate cliché. This seems to satisfy others, but not me, for my inarticulateness stems from a difficulty in translating non-verbal sensations into the limited vocabulary of our language. It is not that the feelings are not there or that I am trying to suppress them; it is just that I don't want to misrepresent them. This is why, I think, we need music and art and hugs and caresses. For these I am glad that words do fail us. I don't need a word for everything.

I probably take it too far. It's partly a liability of my trade and partly the result of a Quaker education. Quakers are one of the few groups that still respect silence. I've also spent many months in Maine where they tell the story of the tourist, befuddled by the quietude of the town, who asks, "Is there a law against speaking here?" "No," was the reply, "we just don't believe in talking unless it improves upon silence."

Such a standard is cultural treason these days. We are expected to communicate whether we have anything to say or know how to say it, leaving our language like a field that has been reaped too often without being resown or fertilized. It is not enough to witness a tragedy and say simply, "Oh, my god!" We are expected to talk it out, explore our feelings with others, express our grief verbally — and the more wordily the better.

There was a time when one might take a long walk in silence alone or with a friend, meditate, pray or just cry. But that will no longer suffice. We might try to comfort a person in some tangible way, perhaps only by one's presence or touch. But today these seem lesser forms of expressing feeling; now we judge feelings by their linguistic form.

I started to look up "silence" in several collections of quotations. I found some apt phrases, but then I noticed something more interesting. My Bartlett's, first published in 1882, had more than two-thirds of a page of its tiny type index devoted to silence and its variations. H.L. Mencken's "New Dictionary of Quotations," published in 1942 and a much more selective volume, still had two pages of quotations dealing with silence. As with Bartlett's, silence generally met with approbation. Then I came to "Peter's Quotations: Ideas for Our Times," published in 1977. There was no category for silence. Silence is clearly not an idea for our times. It has been replaced, in both a technological and cultural sense, by communications.

I don't deny the worth of talk nor do I doubt that many say less than they should, but I remain skeptical of the general assumption that if we talk long enough truth and joy will flow like water and of the tendency to blame the problems of world and the people in it on "a failure in communications." We are, after all, something more than bipedal CB sets. To so emphasize verbal expression denigrates the true variety of our senses, feelings and opportunities for expressing them. An arm around the shoulder may be as true a profession of friendship as some hackneyed phrase. The spinning of a blues line on the keyboard may relieve pain as much as the weaving of words.

Yet we persist in the faith that more and better communications will save us. The evidence seems weak. I live in the communicating capital of the world, where talking and writing are not only the major profession but a major recreation — and we need 25 times as many psychiatrists per 100,000 residents as in unexpressive South Dakota. The availability of information about alternate routes to self-expression has soared in recent years, but so has the divorce rate. The social restraints on saying what one thinks have declined, but so have familial and community ties and public safety. Is social intercourse better than fifty or a hundred years ago? Personal relationships? Our understanding of each other?

Presumably, improved communications should at least have had some scientific virtue but we find little support for this, say, either in the incidence of cancer or marginal changes in the death rate.

Yet we babble on in the hope that by saying enough we will say something right. It is actually more than a faith; it is an addiction. Words have become a drug, not to cure by occasional use, but to sustain by constant injection. Whether one is a teenager mesmerized by the tube or a senator mainlining testimony at a hearing, we increasingly need a verbal fix to get by. It is not by accident that some radio stations have switched from music to an "all-talk" format; words have become the atonal Muzak of our times.

So we not only say it badly but we say too much, and with language being so abused by the bureaucracy, the communicators, the hyper-feelers and other word junkies, I can hardly take the criticisms of a John Simon seriously. He is the passenger on the Titanic asking for another ice cube in his Scotch. The ship is sinking and he wants us not to split infinitives? Hopefully, there's a better way than merely getting people to use *hopefully* correctly.

The right course is not to restore to language its antiquated rules but its reason. How essentially non-essential many of these rules are was demonstrated years ago by a Japanese tourist who lost his baggage in Grand Central Station. It was reported in the New Yorker that he accosted the baggage-master with this magnificent piece of invective:

"Pretty damn seldom where my bag go. She no fly. You no more fitten master baggage than Jesus Christ's sake, that's all I hope."

The structure is confused but the meaning is without doubt. Too much of what we say and hear today is the other way around.

Many of the old rules are inherently unreasonable and make the illogic of English worse. If they are forgotten so much the better. On the other hand, there are rules that should be remembered and reinforced. Among them are these:

Language should have a purpose. It should edify, argue, demonstrate, delight or sadden. Meaning should reign over grammar.

Just because we are able to speak and write doesn't mean we have to. As someone said once, what this country needs is more free speech worth listening to. Accumulating verbiage without regard to its content is more likely to lead to indigestion than understanding.

Language is a creative tool, not a piece of office equipment. Too much language today sounds mechanically assembled. In the case of word-processing this

has become literally true. Phrases and paragraphs are stored on cassettes to be retrieved and recycled constantly. One no longer needs to create, but only rearrange. If it begins to sound the same, it's because it is.

It is all right to change the language, but do it for the better. Feminists are among the few who have staged a frontal assault on the language. Most, like the bureaucrats, prefer subversion. The results of this assault have not been wholly salutary. I find myself caught in the middle of the debate. I try to avoid such inflammatory language as "chairman" but I similarly try to avoid, at all costs, its approved alternative, "chairperson." I find that an ugly, inhuman word. I don't mind being one of the people, but "we the persons?" No way. I think people who call me a person are dehumanizing me as much as if I called them a broad. I can't really explain this except that when someone says "person" I don't see any faces, but with "people" I do. "People" are friendly, but "person" is a cold, analytical word that calls up visions of those silhouette characters on population charts and I suspect whoever came up with it in its modern context of being like that. So what I do is duck the issue: "Mary Jones, who chairs the committee, said..." or "Mary Jones, chair of the committee." I was relieved to find that Bella Abzug, when recently relieved of her chair, called herself "a chair" which is, after all, a perfectly good word that has been around for years albeit without much currency. There are often words in our linguistic attic that we can dust off and use in a new context when some present phrase becomes clichéd or objectionable and many times it is far preferable to do so then to attempt to coin a new one. For example, instead of starting the silly "chairperson" row we might have chosen a word of distinguished heritage like "moderator" or replaced spokesman with "representative" rather than the absurd "spoke." Such words can drift into usage, while ones like "chairperson" become a political banner and, I fear, one more reason why ERA has yet to pass.

Language should be enjoyable. Children, untrained in the somber ways of their elders, recognize this instinctively. They love riddles, puns, jingles and nonsense rhymes. They also love slang. For example, this year at our neighborhood school things are either "decent" or "gross" (there is no middle ground, apparently) and the foibles of a classmate risk identification as a "spas," a somewhat unfelicitous derivation from "spastic." It will be different next year, no doubt, as indicated by a parent who had asked the definition of "decent" being told, "It's slang for 'cool.'"

To have slang for slang is a sign of vibrant verbal culture. Adults, of course, have slang, too, but it lacks status unless discreet and colorless as in the overuse of the word "really." If you attended college you are not supposed to descend into slang, although it is permissible, and even at times demanded, that one use educated slang — which is called jargon. Speaking of the "learning process" and calling someone a "muther" are not as different linguistically as they are indicative of a chasm in social class. Ironically, educated jargon thrives on its meaninglessness; uneducated slang often spreads because of its apt descriptive quality.

Recognizing that we all use words that someone made up should encourage us to try a little invention on our own. While jargon has given us plenty of words we don't need, there are still many things for which we could use a word, but don't have it. Here are just a few possible entries for a really modern dictionary:

A *worthbanger* could be someone who beats you out of a job or a promotion. *Delapse* could be the sleep that occurs after you turn off the alarm clock. *Cibility* is asking someone to have lunch with you sometime when you don't really mean it. Two marathoners at a party engage in *joggon*. A *floid* is the absence of anything good to watch on TV as in "There's a floid, let's go to the movies." A *snefflebugger* is an unreadable xerox copy. A bureaucrat who tells you something can't be done because it's never been done before is being *precautious*. A day with high pollution levels is *fenquid*. A *lackout* is the time spent waiting for the plumber to come. And so forth.

The possibilities are endless. I am still searching for a good word to give to one's ex-wife's mother's ex-husband.

If we are going to change the language let us do so to suit our own rather than institutional needs and in a spirit of imagination and playfulness, rather than permitting the changes to become unnecessary additions to the tedium of our lives.

We should write for the ear and not the eye. We live in an auditory rather than a literary age and I'm not sure that it is entirely a bad thing. Given the cultural dominance of television and radio, we can not in any case do much about it. Further, the formal style, once the mark of a literate writer, has been co-opted by government, academics, corporations and law firms. It is now mostly bad writing and even if you do it well it puts you in bad company. Besides, if you wish to break through the verbal barriers of these aforementioned powerful institutions matching style will never work. You break the barrier by speaking and writing informally and colloquially and thereby provide a reminder to recipients of your words that they are humans as well as professionals. They may cave in when faced with this revelation.

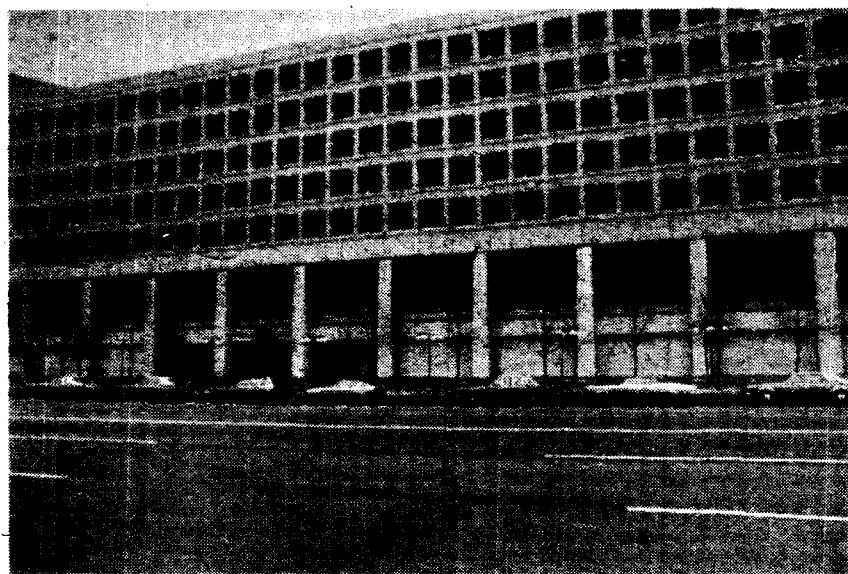
There is nothing wrong with simple and colloquial speech. The ear is a good judge of language. It doesn't like ugly sounds; it shuns needless complexity; it invites directness. We should, I think, be forced to listen to everything we write.

Finally, we should remember that language was created so people could talk to each other. Much language today is obviously not directed to anyone, but to institutions and machines. Much is used like a night light, to keep us from being afraid of the silence.

But it does have better purposes. The major evil of institutionalized and automated language is that it is not human. There is no reason — no matter how complex our thought or exalted the context — to speak and write other than as one human to other humans. This means speaking and writing directly, logically and with spirit.

Such rules seem far more important than how we use "hopefully" and where we place our prepositions. With their application, our language might even flourish again. At least it would survive.

—SAM SMITH



This is progress?

Another photo pair of old and new Washington from the current exhibit at the Woodrow Wilson House, 2340 S NW. Photo at left is how Pennsylvania Avenue between 9th & 10th looked in 1948 (from Joseph S. Allen Collection at the Library of Congress) and how it looked after the construction of the FBI Building in the 1960s (Photo by Earl James).

CITY DESK CONT'D

grounds and Frank Shaffer-Corona saying of one of them, "She wouldn't object to it if this were for the Jews." In all probability the resolution will neither save the black children of southern Africa nor do irreparable harm to the legal processes of the board and could have been handled in such a light. Instead one side got racially righteous and the other got legally righteous and everyone ended up with one more reason not to cooperate on behalf of the children. No wonder people leave to run for the city council. . . . If those who opposed the southern African resolution want to do something useful about questionable indoctrination of students, why not look into publishing houses that use teachers to peddle their books for them, sending order forms home with the kids like it was homework or something.

A TIP OF THE HAT to the Uptown Citizen for its extensive investigation into conditions at the Florence Crittenton Homes. It was in the Jan. 11 issue. . . . The Department of Transportation is planning three pedestrian connector routes in NW to link up park foot trails. The trails, between Rock Creek and Glover Archbold parks, will start on the west at roughly Van Ness St., Whitehaven Parkway and Reservoir Road. Trees and utility poles will be marked with tan blazes so you don't get lost. Where there's a turn there will be two blazes. Call Bob Ford at NPS, 426-6834, for more information. . . . If you were a single woman living alone in a house and working varying hours, it would be nice to have someone else living on the premises, especially if your work took you out of town for several days at a time, leaving the house empty. Right? Wrong, says the Board of Zoning Adjustment and Neighborhood Commission 3E, which opposed the woman's application to add a basement apartment to her premises. The old "it would change the very character of the stable residential area" argument was given. The stability of the woman's residence was apparently not considered. One of these days, people are going to start to realize that a "stable neighborhood" does not preclude other uses than single-family dwellings.

JUST WHEN the friendly Scientologist on Connecticut Avenue had given up asking us twice a day whether we'd like to take a free personality test, we find ourselves barraged by people coming up and asking, "How do you think Barry is going to do?" This is the sort of harassment that turns journalists into Joe Krafts and James Restons. After a while they begin to assume they actually know the answer to questions like that. Now if you want us to write stuff like, "In the first weeks of the Barry Administration, hope and optimism are being mixed with caution and doubt. The dream of a better city rises like the sun behind the rigid mountains of the past. But to the west storm clouds gather etc.," we will, but we would prefer not to. We will say that we think Barry will do better than his predecessor and worse than he might, which is about all you can hope for in American politics, but beyond that we'd like, for a while at least, to stick to specifics. . . . At this point, the specifics are pretty much limited to appointments. Some of them, like naming Herb Reid the mayor's counsel, are really good. Others, like the new city administrator and housing director, are too new to the local scene to tell. We were really impressed by Barry's second level appointments — the various special assistants — many of whom were people known in city hall, if not in the press, for their competence. On the other hand, there are things to worry about. Just when the city is getting its own civil service procedures, the personnel department seems to have become the dumping ground for ex-Washington hacks. And we have heard more doubts expressed about personnel director George Harrod than about any of Barry's other appointments. Even Barry's transition team thought he could do better. . . . Speaking of the personnel bill, passed last session by the council, we noted in the last issue that the mayor, in signing the measure, expressed fear that it would lead to a proliferation of bargaining units in the city government. Not everyone in city hall agrees with that. One city hall source pointed out to us that the old system had proliferated bargaining units and that the new law specifically directs the new public employees relations board to "authorize broad units of occupational groups so as to minimize the number of different pay systems or schemes."

DAVE CLARKE has withdrawn from the race for the at-large city council seat that will be voted upon in May and will "await another day and opportunity to expand my service to a citywide base." He's endorsed John Ray for the post. . . . New housing boss Robert Moore says his department will provide staff support and advice for tenant groups trying to take over their apartment buildings, but that the city isn't going into the mortgage business. Why not? . . . Metro zone apartments between Porter and Ordway have been branded for conversion. Tenants are fighting to save their moderate-cost units, but the buildings, stuck on the east side of Connecticut, have not yet attracted much attention, even from neighborhood groups. Get on the case, folks. . . . Dorothy Jones is the new chair of Neighborhood Commission 4C, up Georgia Avenue. . . . The Institute for Local Self Reliance, 1717 18th St. NW, DC 20009, has just published a new publications list. All sorts of goodies including, "The Economic Feasibility of Recycling." . . . Military reservists in the Washington area now have a combined training center. It's at the Anacostia Naval Air Station. About three thousand reservists will be weekending there. . . . The Washington Streetwork Project, a youth service agency serving troubled teenagers and their families, is looking for foster parents. You can find out about it by calling the project at 546-1257. . . . The Dupont Circle Counseling Center holds a forum on the mental health needs of the Circle area on Feb. 20, 7-10 pm, at St. Thomas, 1772 Church NW. Topics include single adults who feel isolated, displaced residents, single parents, weekend parents, runaways, street youths, elderly people who live alone and street people. Public is invited. Info: Lynne List, 244-3383 (evenings) or 673-7432 (days). . . . Lillian Parks, featured on the Channel 4 series, "Backstairs at the White House," is a lifetime Washingtonian who has lived in the Neighbor's Inc. area for the past 19 years. . . . The St. Margaret's book sale takes place Feb. 16-17 at the church, 1820 Conn. Ave. NW. Art work and stamps will also be sold. . . . Capitol Hill and downtown residents can bring up matters dealing with the police and crime by attending meetings of the First District Citizens Advisory Council on the fourth Tuesday at the First District, 4th & E SW.

THE POST ran a front-page story recently about the fire hazard at city hall. Only one year after the Gazette ran the same story. . . . Since 1971 the Gazette has been arguing that we should bring back the streetcars. Little progress here



LATE FLASH: This is an example of copyart mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Detail is from a work by David Root. Now do you know what we're talking about?

in the heart of Metroland, despite several sensible plans to resurrect the trollies. But in NYC the other day, a city planning commission study suggested the return of streetcars to 42nd Street. Well, if the Big Apple does it, maybe the Post will find it appealing. . . . End We Told You So Department for this month. . . . Neighborhood Commission 2A wants all new hotels in residential districts to be discussed before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Right now, you can put up a hotel in a R-5 district as a matter-of-right in many cases. The zoning commission is studying the matter. . . . Shades of Danny Kaye: The Office of Municipal Audits and Inspections has been abolished by Barry. In its place: The Inspector General of the District of Columbia. We nominate Davey Marlin Jones. He sort of looks the part. . . . One of big Wally's last acts as mayor was to give William Polak permission to anchor a floating restaurant beside the Georgetown waterfront. . . . Wilhelmina Rolark has introduced legislation to franchise cable tv in DeeCee. . . . First we had the "mature" Marion Barry, now the Star headlines "Dellums Matured, but Still Fighting." How come, in the press, conservatives and mugwumps never "mature?" We'd love just once for the media to admit it had been wrong in its earlier assessment of a radical. . . . R. Source tells us, "What this city needs is scattered site housing for the rich." . . . That was a lovely drawing of the Rhodes Tavern on the Riggs Bank Christmas card. Perhaps Riggs would like to encourage Ollie Carr to save it. . . . Roses to Betty Ann Kane for objecting to the city council's overuse of its emergency powers. Says Kane, "The only emergency the DC City Council faces is its failure to pass permanent legislation." . . . There will be a partial eclipse of the sun on February 26. We don't know why we tell you this since you're not meant to look at it. . . .

Metro fare

THE GOOD OLD Freedom of Information Act brings us still more news of doubts within the federal government about the area's Metro mania. Like that Federal Steering Committee meeting on May 19 where it was noted that "About 65% of current rail ridership is derived from previous bus riders." . . . Or the May 24 note from OMB's Nick Stoer to WMATA in which he says, "The large jump in patronage attributable to Phase VII was about 100 million trips per year, an amount equivalent to 75-80 percent of total current ridership. That alone is difficult to envision. Given that much the E and F routes which comprise Phase VII will travel through neighborhoods with high numbers of transit dependant citizens, I believe it is improper to forecast such large increases in riders in those areas. . . . [The] substitution effect is likely to be great since these areas are already well served by Metrobus." . . . Or the July memo to Brock Adams in which it is noted, "In fact, the financing plan's 1990 patronage forecast implies that the WMATA rail system will attract over 30% more passenger trips per vehicle mile of service provided than the rail system in New York City . . . and over 90% more than Chicago's." . . . We could go on but you probably get the drift. The question is: when will people like Marion Barry and Metro alternate board member Hilda Mason get it as well and finally realized that they have been badly deceived by the Metro gang. . . . To our knowledge, Woodward & Lothrop will be the only department store in the country to provide multi-million dollar shuttle service underground between two of its branches. Woodies has direct access to Metro at Metro Center, will have it at Friendship Heights. So if you can't find your size downtown, just. . . . Of course, Woodies has been all for revitalizing the area through Metro and, naturally, is represented on the powerful Metro-boosting Federal City Council. But it's not alone. Mark Meagher of the Post, Joe A. Britton, then of the Star, Phillips Peter, veep of General Electric, Samuel Bonsack of C&P and Carleton Stewart of American Security all have sat on the FCC's Metro management committee. Other FCCers involved in the big push for Metro include representatives of the Hilton Hotels, Riggs, Pepco, Washington Gas Light, Marriott, Peoples Drugs, and a number of banks and realty companies. Ollie Carr and Thornton Owen were on a committee called "Related Development," which is a discreet way of putting it. But the FCC committee we like best is the one plotting a way to raise regional taxes to pay for the disaster. Not only has that committee seen the likes of DC Democratic Central Committee chair Robert Washington (a partner in the Danzansky law firm) and the big rezoner, Bob Linowes, but James Johnston, director of government relations for General Motors. General Motors? — you ask. Sure. As we've been trying to tell you, Metro will not cut back auto travel and the folks at GM are smart enough to realize that even if local politicians aren't. . . . Fred Mann of the Star did a good piece on the problems with BART, quoting a SF transit official as saying, "Five years ago, every big city wanted a subway. . . . but most urban areas aren't so excited about heavy rail systems anymore.

Planners wonder if subways are worth the expense, and they look at BART and see that modern systems don't always work as well as they are supposed to."

WALTER FAUNTROY pauses in his campaign for the US Senate long enough on Feb. 16 to celebrate his birthday at a super Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball at the Hyatt Regency. Grand Marshalls for the event include those other great men of the people, Oliver Carr and Joe Danzansky. We're otherwise engaged but will send Walter a Dataman calculator to see if that helps. . . . Tip to the Committee of 100 Ministers: They're going to be playing bingo and blackjack at the ball. It's like people have been trying to tell you — you can't keep a good idea down. . . . Wal-drop Fenster reports that he has now stopped reading Bill Gold. Says he didn't realize those Children's Hospital stories continued right into February. "Most people drop the season's spirit around Twelfth Night," he observed glumly. . . . You may not have noticed it because they give him such a tiny by-line, but erst-while Gazette contributor and everlasting psychological patron, Chuck Stone, is writing all sorts of good stuff for the District Star, including a nice piece on Marion's problems with the hispanic community and doubts about the convention center. . . . Fields of Plenty, the non-profit food store of Adams Morgan, faces financial headaches.

ALL SORTS OF grumbling at city hall over Arrington Dixon's first few weeks as chair of the council. His wife's alleged influence and his memos are vying for top spot as what is known these days as "problem areas." . . . A report from the Center for Municipal and Metropolitan Research finds that hospital costs in this area rose 37% in 1976 and 1977. Worst section was Maryland where hospital costs went up 45%. Inpatient declines in the city helped raise costs here as did a 46% increase in Medicaid reimbursements. . . . We were shocked to learn from the Environmental Health Administration that the "imported hard salami" being served at the National Press Club was actually domestic. Another blow against objectivity in the press. . . . Also sad to find out that the Federal Bar Cafeteria's "homemade chili" came from a can. . . . Bright news on the tow-away scene. Doug Schneider says that, come spring, you'll be able to pay your parking fines by credit card.

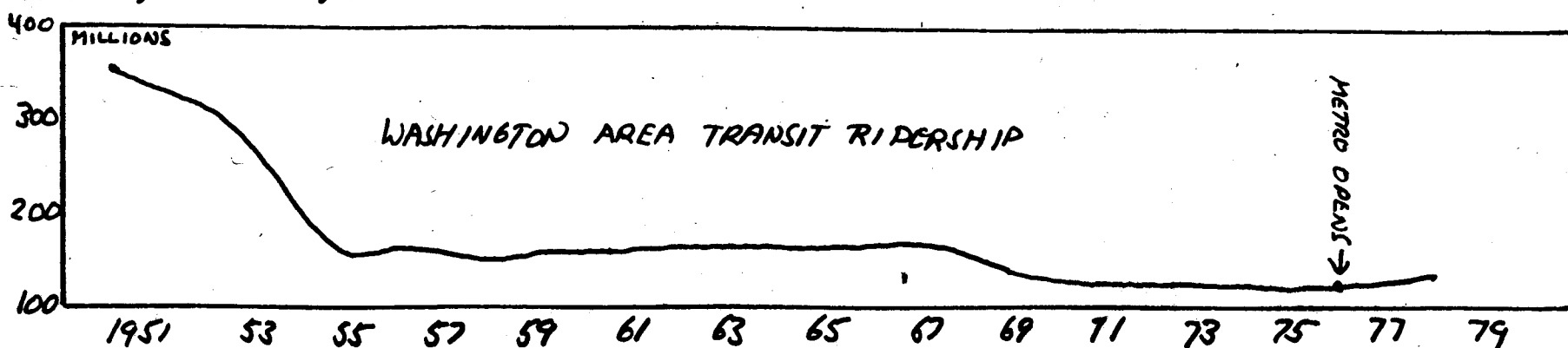
Doesn't he know?

JUST WHAT does developer Michael Cappy think he's doing building a 145,000 square foot trade center and exhibit hall out near Dulles for only \$23 million? And with no public money? Doesn't he realize that we have more than six years of consultant reports that prove conclusively that you can't build a convention center without government support? And that it should cost two to three times as much? . . . People who work with older folk might be interested in a two-day seminar on protective services for the aging, to be held at the Greater SE Community Hospital Feb. 15 and 22. Registration forms and information can be obtained from the DC Providers Council, 483-6409.

JERRY MOORE has introduced PR3-7, "To amend the Rules of Organization and Procedure of the Council of the District of Columbia to recognize the existence of a supreme deity at the beginning of each deliberative session of the Council of the District of Columbia." Jerry's got the bill a little wrong; it's usually at the end of each deliberative session that we begin to have doubts. . . . Some people are beginning to wonder whether all of Marion's reorganizations were strictly kosher. . . . Although most of preservers in town applauded the new historic preservation act, some people who have had experience dealing with the whimsical arbitrariness of groups like the Fine Arts Commission have doubts. Before you rush out to have your neighborhood declared historic, consider that the law states that no permit be issued for exterior alteration "unless the Mayor finds that such issuance is necessary in the public interest or that a failure to issue a permit will result in unreasonable economic hardship to the owner." These lines mean trouble for homeowners who have imaginative ideas about what to do with their places.



OH DAD, POOR DAD, METRO'S SPENT THREE BILLION ON MASS TRANSIT & I'M FEELING SO SAD



This chart, compiled by the Committee on Metro Accountability, shows how little Metro has affected total transit ridership in the Washington region. Data comes from WMATA, the American Public Transit Association and the Washington Metropolitan Transit Commission.

THE GAZETTE BOOKSHELF

COOKING

- WHAT'S COOKING DOWN EAST:** This is the book that taught your editor how to make the best fish chowder in town. Lots of other Down East recipes. \$1.50
- BACH'S LUNCH: PICNIC AND PATIO CLASSICS:** We discovered this book through a friend who recommended it highly. 200 recipes for picnics and patio dining. \$3.25 and worth it.
- COOKING UNDER PRESSURE:** Says the Washington Star: "It delivers on the promise, cutting through the mystique of pressure cooking with an intelligent introduction, complete list of do's and don't's, cooking times and more than 50 recipes. \$1.95
- THE NEW YORK TIMES NATURAL FOODS COOKBOOK:** Over 700 recipes for those who care what they eat. \$2.25
- JOY OF COOKING:** Best selling US cookbook. 4300 recipes. \$4.95
- VEGETARIAN EPICURE:** \$4.95
- EATING IN AMERICA:** Dietary goals of the US; the report of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. \$1.95
- THE TAMING OF THE CANDY MONSTER:** A cookbook to help get your kids to eat less sugary, salty, junk food, without sacrificing convenience or good taste. \$3.95
- THE WHOLE KITCHEN CATALOG:** A guide by the editors of Consumer's Reports to creating a more beautiful, comfortable and convenient kitchen. \$7.95.

REFERENCE

- THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE DICTIONARY:** More than 40,000 entries. Synonyms arranged by word length alphabetically. Many other important features. \$5.95.
- THE NEW ROGET'S THESAURUS IN DICTIONARY FORM:** Brighten up your language, find that word you can't think of. \$1.50
- ALTERNATIVE AMERICA:** A directory of 5000 alternative lifestyle organizations around the country. \$4
- DICTIONARY OF LAW:** More than 1800 law terms explained in simple language. \$2.95.

GARDENING

- KEEPING THE HARVEST:** Home storage of vegetables and fruits. So you've grown all those tomatoes. This book tells you what to do with them. List \$5.95. Our price: \$4.16.
- NEW YORK TIMES BOOK OF HOUSE PLANTS:** The NYT gives you the way to keep the inside of your house green. \$4.75 (80¢ off the list price).

ENERGY

- YOUR ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOUSE: BUILDING AND REMODELING IDEAS.** Here is the homeowner's manual to drastically reducing fuel bills by not wasting the free energy around you. \$4.95

TO: DC GAZETTE, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW, DC 20009

Please send the following items. I enclose check or money order

ITEM	PRICE
TOTAL	
5% TAX (DC only).	
POSTAGE & HANDLING.	40¢
PAY THIS AMOUNT	

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....ZIP.....

() Check here if you are not a subscriber and we'll send you a free trial subscription with your order.

THE SOLAR HOME BOOK: The first book to deal honestly with the drawbacks and blessings of home solar heating and cooling. Simple yet complete, with a wealth of photos, drawings and diagrams. \$7.50

APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOURCEBOOK: Written specifically with non-experts in mind, this sourcebook identifies the existing small-scale technology. Dozens of tools, books and techniques for food production, home construction, health care, energy sources, etc., are outlined and reviewed. \$4.

WAGE THE ENERGY WAR AT HOME: A well-illustrated, easy-to-understand guide to improving the energy efficiency of your house. By Joseph C. Davis and Claxton Walker. \$9.95

WASHINGTON

- STATEHOOD T-SHIRT:** Light blue with dark blue lettering. Reads "End Capital Punishment. Support DC Statehood" with "DC Gazette" in small letters below. State size. \$4.75
- STATEHOOD BUMPER STICKER:** Same legend as above \$2.50
- HOW TO GET A DIVORCE (DC Area):** The Washingtonian's guide to the local divorce laws. Includes sample forms for filing your own divorce. \$4.95
- WASHINGTON'S MOST FAMOUS MURDER STORIES:** Tom Kelly's collection of tales of some of Washington's most famous murder stories. Well illustrated. \$3.95
- NON-SMOKERS GUIDE TO WASHINGTON:** How to get around town without coughing. \$1.50
- GOING PLACES WITH CHILDREN:** Green Acre School's Guide to planning successful trips in the area with children. 20% off at \$2.
- SURVIVAL DIRECTORY FOR WOMEN:** Listing sources for help in everything from child care and education to groceries and "Karma cleaning." \$3.00
- A WALKING GUIDE TO HISTORIC GEORGETOWN.** Two walking tours with descriptions of Georgetown's major historical points of interest. \$1.50
- BOSS SHEPHERD AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS:** The fascinating tale of DC's only true boss and perhaps the most controversial figure in local history. \$3.
- WALKING TOURS OF WASHINGTON:** ~~W. think this is one of the best of the walking guides and it only costs \$1.50~~ **SOLD OUT**
- THE POTOMAC:** Frederick Gutheim's fine book on the history of the Potomac River Valley will broaden your understanding of the area. 20% off at \$3.96
- YESTERDAY'S WASHINGTON:** A photographic history of our city that all lovers of DC will want to have. 20% off at \$7.95
- JOHN WIEBENSON'S MAP OF WASHINGTON:** Drawn for the bicentennial and now available at 40% off \$1.50
- FACTORY OUTLET GUIDE TO DC., MD AND VA.** How to get things cheaply around here. \$2.95
- MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF WASHINGTON:** This annotated bibliography of books and materials about the city is the most valuable thing its kind to come along. \$2.50
- ZOO BOOK:** Photo-filled book on what's in the National Zoo and how it's cared for. 40% off at \$3.
- TOWPATH GUIDE TO THE C&O:** Georgetown-Seneca. \$3.
- C&O OLD PICTURE ALBUM** \$4.95
- CANAL BOAT CHILDREN.** \$3.
- LIFE ON THE C&O CANAL.** \$2.50
- GREATER WASHINGTON AREA BIKE ATLAS:** This guide is now in its second edition and is a must for anyone who likes to take bike trips in the area. 20% off at \$2.80
- CAPTIVE CAPITAL:** Gazette editor Sam Smith's book about non-federal Washington. "An excellent gift" said Bill Raspberry in the Post. "Must reading" said the Afro-American. "A joy to read" said Robert Cassidy in the Chicago Tribune. \$8.50
- METROPOLITAN AREA TENNIS AND GOLF GUIDE.** Also covers many other sports in the metro area. 20% off at \$1.60
- CAPITAL FEASTS:** The Menu guide to Washington area restaurants. Guide to menus at the top restaurants plus hours, decor, house specials and other features. 20% off at \$3.60